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FBIS-NES-95-177 CONTENTS *13 September 1995*

NOTICE: An * indicates material that may not be disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Envoy Assails U.S. Role at Security Council *[INA]* 1
Arab League Chief Meets 'Arafat in Cairo *[MENA]* 1

Islamic Affairs

Islamic Scholar Rules Out Peace With Israel *[London FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH Sep]* 1
Political Islam Review; AL-SHA'B 5 Sep 4

Palestinian Affairs

PA Sentences 2 Murder Suspects Sought by Israel *[Jerusalem Radio]* 7
'Abbas on Extradition Issue *[Jerusalem Radio]* 7
'Abbas Interviewed on Developments Since Oslo *[London AL-HAYAH 12 Sep]* 7
'Arafat Leaves for 'Emergency' Talks with Mubarak *[Jericho VOP]* 10
'Arafat Said To Doubt Usefulness of Peres Meeting *[AFP]* 10
Fatah Leaders Threaten To Boycott PA Elections *[HA'ARETZ 12 Sep]* 10
Commander on Possible Talks With 'Democratic' Hamas *[Milan PANORAMA 14 Sep]* 11
Al-Husayni, Spain's Solana Discuss EU, Peace Process *[Madrid EFE]* 11

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Zeroual To Run as Candidate of 'People's Marches' *[London AL-HAYAH 12 Sep]* 13
Lecturer Announces Candidacy for Presidency *[Algiers Radio]* 13
Security Forces, Islamists in 'Major Shoot-Out' *[Paris TV]* 13
Eleven Islamists Killed *[Paris TV]* 13
Security Forces Kill 14 'Terrorists' *[Algiers Radio]* 14

Egypt

Mubarak Plans U.S. Visit for Peace Process Ceremony *[MENA]* 14
'Arafat, Mubarak Discuss Peace Talks 'Impasse' *[Jericho VOP]* 14
Foreign Minister Comments on Addis Ababa Trip *[AFP]* 15
Comments on OAU Meeting *[MENA]* 15
Cairo Recognizes Libya's Policy on Illegal Workers *[AFP]* 15
Algerian Foreign Minister Stops in Cairo, Comments *[MENA]* 16
Israeli 'Intransigence' Over Hebron Viewed *[MENA]* 16
'Collective Condemnation' of Khartoum Discussed *[Cairo Radio]* 16
Commentary Discusses Journalists' Congress *[AKHBAR AL-YAWM 9 Sep]* 17

Libya

Statement on U.S. Policy on Evicted Palestinians *[Tripoli TV]* 18
Al-Qadhdhafi: Missiles in Bosnia Not Defending Islam *[Tripoli Radio]* 18
Salvation Front Warns of Execution Consequences *[London AL-HAYAH 12 Sep]* 19

Sudan

Student Demonstrations Break Out in Several Cities *[AFP]* 19
  Khartoum Student Demonstrations Detailed *[London International]* 20
  2 Reported Dead in Khartoum *[MENA]* 21
'Unrest' Allows 300 Prisoners To Escape *[AFP]* 21
Organization Seeks Release of Detainees *[MENA]* 21
Opposition Figure Demands Punishment for Regime *[MENA]* 21
Khartoum 'Willing To Hand Over' Suspect *[AL-SHA'B 8 Sep]* 22
Khartoum Reacts to OAU Statement on Mubarak Attempt *[Khartoum Radio]* 22

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Prime Minister Comments on Recent Events, Iraq *[WAKH]* 23

Oman

Qabus Leaves Hospital After Car Accident *[Muscat Radio]* 23

Saudi Arabia

Japan's Murayama Arrives for Mideast Tour *[Tokyo KYODO]* 23
  Pledges Positive Role in Mideast *[Tokyo KYODO]* 24
  Praises Saudi International Role *[SPA]* 24
Foreign Ministry Clarifies Visit of Iraqi Minister *[SPA]* 25
King Chairs Council Meeting, Supports Bosnia Talks *[SPA]* 25

Yemen

Dollar-Riyal Exchange Rate Provokes Price Drop *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 9 Sep]* 25

IRAQ

Defense Minister, Others Sworn In Before Saddam *[Baghdad Radio]* 27
Commission Supervising Referendum Approves Forms *[INA]* 27
Paper Notes 'New Stage' of 'Democratic Practice' *[INA]* 27
Saddam Said Guarantee for 'Prosperous Iraq' *[INA]* 27
Saddam Seen Building 'Democratic Civil Society' *[INA]* 28
Ekeus Comments on Baghdad's Biological Weapons *[Paris LE MONDE 11 Sep]* 29
Radio Views Powell's Statements on Nuclear Weapons *[Mother of Battles Radio]* 29
Paper Urges Moscow To 'Break Away' From Embargo *[INA]* 30
BABIL Urges France To Defend Economic Interests *[INA]* 30
Talks in Tehran To Reestablish Normal Relations *[London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH 12 Sep]* 31
AL-SHA'B Claims Defector Kamil Visits Israel *[8 Sep]* 31
Development Leading to Defections Viewed *[AL-SHIRA' 21 Aug]* 32
Anti-Saddam Leaflets, Slogans Seen in Baghdad *[Voice of Iraqi People]* 32
SAIRI Issues Statement on Referendum Decision *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 33
Pro-Constitutional Monarchy Leader Interviewed *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 34
Saddam Chairs Council of Ministers Session *[Baghdad TV]* 35
    Chairs Economic Committee Meeting *[Baghdad Radio]* 35
Report Says GDP Shrunk 35% Since Sanctions *[London FINANCIAL TIMES 11 Sep]* 35
Saddam Orders Increase in Sugar-Beet Purchase Prices *[AL-THAWRAH 24 Aug]* 36
Ministry To Issue New Lists of Banned Commodities *[Baghdad TV]* 36
Official Warns of Water Shortage in Baghdad *[ALIF BA' 6 Sep]* 36
Saddam Orders Steps To Ease al-Basrah Water Shortage *[Baghdad TV]* 37
Operation of al-Mada'in Water Project Reported *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 13 Aug]* 37
Paper Reports on al-Anbar Irrigation Projects *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 12 Aug]* 37
Law on Irrigation, Drainage Networks *[AL-THAWRAH 20 Aug]* 38

ISRAEL

TV Reports Peres-'Arafat Meeting Postponed *[Jerusalem TV]* 42
Peres Calls 'Urgent' Consultation on Jericho Trials *[Jerusalem Radio]* 42
Rabin on 'Peace Map,' Future of Golan Settlements *[DAVAR 12 Sep]* 42
Government Shows Flexibility on Accord Opponents' Entry *[Jerusalem Radio]* 43
Peres Urges Opposition Leaders To Quell Unrest *[Milan PANORAMA 14 Sep]* 43
Palestinian Murder Trial Sparks Sharp Reactions *[Jerusalem Radio]* 43
    Netanyahu Rejects Trial *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 44
    Peres: PA Trial Not Accord Violation *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 45
EYAL Leader Detained for Halhul Murder Claim *[Jerusalem Radio]* 45
Sources Say 'at Least 13 Fugitives' in Jericho *[Jerusalem Radio]* 45
MK Gutman, Hebron Mayor Involved in 'Scuffle' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 45
Deputy Intelligence Chief on Iraq, Jordan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 46
Spain's Gonzalez: EU Likely To Reject Bank Plan *[THE JERUSALEM POST 12 Sep]* 46
Bosnia Operation Seen as Prelude to Iraq Invasion *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 12 Sep]* 47
Editorial: Indyk Absence Suggests Waning Support *[MA'ARIV 11 Sep]* 48
Commentary Probes Israel-U.S. Relations *[MA'ARIV 10 sep]* 49
Editorial Backs Pollard Citizenship Decision *[MA'ARIV 12 Sep]* 50

JORDAN

Opposition Urges U.S. To Release Abu-Marzuq *[AL-MAJD 11 Sep]* 51
King Husayn Says Policy on Iraq 'Consistent' *[JORDAN TIMES 13 Sep]* 51
CNN Reportedly Seeks Interview With Saddam's Daughters *[AL-MAJD 11 Sep]* 52
Paper on Iraqi Changes, Overtures to Iran, Syria *[AL-BILAD 13 Sep]* 52
Foreign Minister on Ties With Israel, Riyadh *[MENA]* 53
King, Spain's Gonzalez Hold News Conference *[Amman Radio]* 54
Government To Limit Number of Foreign Workers *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 12 Sep]* 55
Prince Hasan on Arab Defense Pact, Jerusalem *[JORDAN TIMES 11 Sep]* 55

LEBANON

Prime Minister on Barring Entry of Palestinians *[VOL]* 57
Foreign Minister Comments on Palestinian Issue *[Beirut Radio]* 57
Palestinians in Camp Protest Libyan, Lebanese Decisions *[RFL]* 57
Palestinian Group Names Members Killed in South *[Voice of the South]* 57
New Cable Links Lebanon, Cyprus, Syria *[Beirut Radio]* 58

SYRIA

Al-Asad, Spanish Prime Minister Hold Meeting *[Madrid Radio]* 59
    Hold Joint News Conference *[Damascus Radio]* 59
Commentary Views Visit of Spanish President *[Damascus Radio]* 62
People's Assembly Speaker Meets Visiting Cubans *[Damascus Radio]* 63

SOUTH ASIA

India

U.S. View of Pakistan's Nuclear Program Addressed *[Delhi International]* 64
Former Official Examines Relations With China *[THE PIONEER 3 Sep]* 64
Article Views 'Strategic Partnership' With Russia *[THE PIONEER 11 Sep]* 66
Lives of Kashmir Hostages Reportedly in 'Danger' *[Islamabad TV]* 67
'Unprovoked' Shooting by Pakistan Troops Reported *[Delhi Radio]* 68
TV Relays Swearing-In of New Ministers of State *[Delhi TV]* 68
Prime Minister, Spokesman View Cabinet Reshuffle *[Delhi Radio]* 68
Leftists' Chance in National Elections Seen Slim *[SAPTAHIK BARTAMAN 15 Jul]* 69

Iran

Daily Assails UK 'Machinations' in Persian Gulf *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 30 Aug]* 70
Uganda Asks For Mediation in Sudan Relations *[Tehran Radio]* 70
Tehran Said To Expand European Ties for Trade *[IRNA]* 71
Bank Governor Announces Trade Balance Surplus *[Tehran Radio]* 71
Rafsanjani Addresses Gathering of Prayer Leaders *[Tehran Radio]* 71
    Further on Rafsanjani Address *[IRNA]* 72
Nation Called 'Most Secure Country in the World' *[IRNA]* 72
Nateq-Nuri Affirms 'Unity' of Clergy 'Invincible' *[RESALAT 29 Aug]* 72
Information Minister Comments on Dissident Tehrani *[RESALAT 2 Sep]* 74
Ayatollah Rowhani Accuses Rafsanjani of Violations 74
    Rowhani Issues Letter *[London KEYHAN 6 Jul]* 74
    Rowhani's Home in Qom Attacked *[London KEYHAN 27 Jul]* 75

Nepal

New Government Sworn In; Positions Detailed 75
  Deuba, Ministers Take Oath *[Kathmandu Radio]* 75
  Radio Details Council, Portfolios *[Kathmandu Radio]* 75
Ousted Leader Pledges Support for New Government *[AFP]* 75

Pakistan

Letter Sent to UN Head on Stance Towards Kabul *[Islamabad Radio]* 76
Editorial Views 'Aerial Harassment' by Afghan Jet *[THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER 11 Sep]* 76
Editorial Addresses Kabul's 'Tilt' Towards India *[THE MUSLIM 12 Sep]* 77
Air Chief Says French Mirage 2000-5 Best Option *[THE NEWS 6 Sep]* 78
Talks To Reopen on Purchase of Russian Helicopters *[THE MUSLIM 12 Sep]* 79
Official Details Arms Made at Ordnance Factories *[BUSINESS RECORDER 5 Sep]* 80
Article Acclaims al-Khalid Tank Prototype, Testing *[THE MUSLIM 6 Sep]* 81
Article Addresses MQM Call for Strike *[THE NEWS 9 Sep]* 82
  Strike Reportedly Ends 'Unsuccessfully' *[Islamabad TV]* 82
Minister Sends Warning to Altaf Group 'Terrorists' *[Islamabad Radio]* 82
Official Says Leghari Responsible for Punjab Crisis *[THE NATION 11 Sep]* 82
Bhutto Views Punjab After Assembly Suspension *[Islamabad Radio]* 83
Dismissed Punjab Chief Fails To Appear for Vote *[Islamabad Radio]* 83

Sri Lanka

Ministry Seeks 'Urgent' Security for India Mission *[AFP]* 84
Radio Reports on Crash of Air Force Plane *[Delhi Radio]* 84
  Further on Crash *[Colombo International]* 84
'Plot' To Kill President Reported; Police on Alert *[Colombo International]* 84
'Massive Racket' To Fund LTTE Said Discovered *[Colombo International]* 85
Radio Updates Situation With Ferry Boat Hostages *[Colombo International]* 85
Government Forces Launch Offensive Against LTTE *[Colombo International]* 85
  Forces Said To Capture 3 LTTE Areas *[Colombo International]* 86
Government Affirms Commitment to Devolution Proposals *[Colombo International]* 86
Editorial Welcomes U.S. Stand on Ethnic Conflict *[VIRAKESARI 4 Sep]* 86

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Envoy Assails U.S. Role at Security Council

JN0909195995 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1700 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Sep (INA)—Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League, denounced the U.S. role in the UN Security Council, which continues to obstruct the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, using all weak and unjustified pretexts to maintain the unjust blockade and to create tension in the region.

Answering Arab and foreign journalists' questions today regarding the U.S. insistence at the UN Security Council on maintaining the blockade, he added: The souls of Iraq's children who have fallen victims to the U.S. blackmail and the continuation of the unjust blockade clamped on the Iraqi people, and the death of thousands of them, will be a curse and a disgrace in the history of those who insist on harming the Iraqi people and mankind.

Iraq's representative stressed that the U.S. Administration's efforts to maintain the blockade, the dispatch of its fleets to the Arab Gulf region, and its threats to interfere in the region's affairs, have become a well-known issue that is denounced by the region's peoples and the international community, especially since this contravenes international law, the UN Charter, and the principle of international relations.

He said: Regardless of the U.S. lies and justifications, the fair voices inside and outside the UN Security Council stress that Iraq cooperates with the UN Special Commission to implement Resolution 687. He added that this necessitates a just implementation of Paragraph 22 to lift the blockade which is imposed by the U.S. Administration alone.

He stressed that after Iraq's repeated calls for the establishment of inter-Arab relations which give first priority to the higher Arab interests without any interferences, the Arab states should lift the blockade and respond to the Iraqi initiatives for the sake of the Arab nation's future and interests.

Arab League Chief Meets 'Arafat in Cairo

NC1309100595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0930 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Sep (MENA)—Today, in his office, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who is currently visiting Cairo. The meeting dealt with developments in the Middle East peace process, particularly on the Palestinian-Israeli track, and the current Arab situation.

Islamic Affairs

Islamic Scholar Rules Out Peace With Israel

MM1109094095 London FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH in Arabic Sep 95 pp 32-34

[Interview with Islamic scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah by Ghayyath Nasir in Damascus; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Nasir] What is Islam's position on the question of peace with Israel?

[Fadlallah] There are two factors which make any peace with the Israeli Jews illegitimate. The first is that, under Islamic jurisprudence, usurpation is prohibited. We know that the Jews have usurped Palestine, territory and authority, and they have expropriated Palestinian land and imposed themselves on the Palestinians who remained in the occupied territory. They did so unjustly and without any mandate from the people. We know that usurpation of territory is forbidden under the Shari'ah as is the usurpation of any Muslim property. So we see that the imposition of hegemony on people against their will is rejected under the Shari'ah. People are their own masters and no one has authority over another unless one willingly accepts it or unless it is in accordance with God's will.

The second factor is that Islam rejects the idea of an infidel having authority over a Muslim. Jurisprudence ulema have deemed that illegitimate, and ruled that it is also illegitimate for a Muslim to give infidels authority over him. That is why we consider peace with Israel to be forbidden under the Shari'ah, and no Muslim can permit what is so forbidden.

[Nasir] That is from the angle of jurisprudence and shari'ah. What about the political aspect?

[Fadlallah] If we examine the matter from the political aspect in relation to the freedom, honor, and dignity of Muslims we will find that Israel's presence in the region confuses all the political realities of Muslims, and also confuses the other economic and security aspects. That is why Israel's continued presence in the region weakens the entire Islamic reality in one way or another. If we scrutinize many documents which discuss the background of the unholy alliance between Israel and the haughty world [powers] we will find that there is a preconceived plan to prevent unity of the Arab world and prevent the Islamic world from surging forward toward an Islamic unity that would govern the Islamic countries. Accordingly, when we consider the Arab and Islamic political future we find that Israel's presence would remain a constantly active political, security, and economic problem. Therefore, God, who has given glory to himself, his Prophet, and the faithful, would not want Muslims to give away what is theirs in humility and to behave like slaves, nor would he want them to act like a weightless nation in the face of the marching usurpers.

[Nasir] What are the preconditions set by Islam for peace with the enemies?

[Fadlallah] There is a difference when it comes to establishing peace with the enemies when they are in their own positions and we are in ours, where peace would not become a legal instrument legitimizing the enemy's seizure of your geographic, economic, security, or political resources. In such a case the subjective circumstances pertaining to the higher Islamic interests should be examined. In some cases the Muslims might be subject to some elements of weakness and would therefore need a period of time to prepare to restore strength to their positions. They could then enter into a truce with the enemy with varying conditions depending on the relevant circumstances at the time and in the context of Islamic interests. Or it may be in the higher Islamic interest for Muslims to tone down the war for a period of time in order to strengthen themselves further or prepare for great future conquest. We can cite the example of the al-Hudaybiyah peace concluded by the Prophet, may God's prayers and blessings be upon him, with the heretics. The Prophet's aim was to suspend the battle until he completed his preparations for the conquest of Mecca. It may also be in the interest of Muslims to have peace with other nations with different religions or ideologies, because Islam encourages Muslims to coexist with those who do not fight them or expel them from their homes. "God forbids you not, with regard to those who fight you not for (your) faith nor drive you out of your homes, to deal kindly and justly with them: For God loveth those who are just. God only forbids you, with regard to those who fight you for (your) faith, and drive you out of your homes and support (others) in driving you out, to turn to them (for friendship and protection). It is such as turn to them (in these circumstances) that do wrong." [Koranic verse]

So there is no objection in Islam to Muslims entering into peace with their enemies at the level of truce or at the level of continuous normal relations in one way or another, or in a phase.

But if the enemies are like the Jews in Israel, naturally God forbids us to have peace with them because the Jews have fought us over our religion, driven us from our homes, and helped others drive us out of our homes in more than one position and region. They are after the Muslims everywhere in the world, persecuting them, weakening them, and joining alliances with haughty powers against them. So the conditions for peace with the enemies under the Islamic shari'ah are not fulfilled in relation to the Jews. The subjective and shari'ah conditions dictate that we should confront the Jews in a continuous battle until they are expelled from Palestine.

[Nasir] If the Jews left Palestine, would these conditions still stand?

[Fadlallah] If the Jews left Palestine and merely became a religious group with whom we disagree on religion, then anywhere in the world we could conclude a reconciliation, truce, or peace with them on the same conditions we conclude them with other religions or ideological trends. That is because our problem with the Jews in Palestine is not over their Judaism as such or religious disagreement between us and them. Our problem with them is a problem with the unjust. The holy Koran says: "And dispute ye not with the people of the book, except with means better (than mere disputation) unless it be with those of them who inflict wrong." The attitude towards the unjust differs from the attitude toward those who disagree with you on religion. That is why we tell the world that we have no battle with the Jews other than over the Israeli question, in the religious meaning of battle. We disagree with them as we disagree with Christians, agnostics, and heretics. Some differences may be more serious than others but mere disagreement does not mean war, because war is triggered by aggression. If one with whom I have religious or ideological differences does not become hostile to me then I would see no legitimacy for me in principle to wage war with him.

In the light of that, we cannot enter peace with Israel on any legitimate, political, or realistic grounds.

[Nasir] But some religious ulema have said that it is permissible to have peace with the Zionist entity. How do you view this disagreement between the ulema of Islam on such a serious matter?

[Fadlallah] There are people who have different views of things as a result of studies presented to them. When we look at the fatwa [edict] of Ibn-Baz [of Saudi Arabia], for instance, about the permissibility of peace with Israel, we find that he is talking about a long and continuous truce and about a weak Arab position incapable of confronting Israel, which means that the information given to him said that the Muslims cannot confront Israel because they are in a weak position and Israel in a strong position, which means that a truce would be in the interest of the Muslims. They tried to give him the impression that that kind of settlement would lead to a truce and not a recognition of legitimacy [of Israel]. That is why I imagine he got confused because I do not believe that any Muslim scholar who knows anything about Islam and Islamic jurisprudence would rule that it is legitimate for the infidels to usurp Muslim territory, because recognition of Israel is tantamount to recognition of the legitimacy of usurpation of Muslim territory by infidels. No jurisprudent would talk positively about such a thing.

That is why I believe that some of these ulema got confused as a result of the information given to them when they have no political knowledge, political awareness, or knowledge of the entire reality of the situation.

There are some we could call preachers of the sultans, who live in the sultan's court to give him fatwas for war or peace as his need may be. What matters in such cases is the interest of the sultan who pays their salaries and pensions, not the interest of the nation on whom taxes are levied in the name of the sultan.

[Nasir] There is a call, in the states which signed peace agreements, for the rejection of normalization with the Zionist enemy. How do you view this matter?

[Fadlallah] I believe that those who proceed along that line are the same ones who reject Israel but I do not understand rejection of normalization as a new approach. Our rejection of Israel is a refusal to deal with it in times of war and in times of peace. I therefore do not believe in a new approach called rejection of normalization. I believe in the continuation of the basic line which is that Israel has no legitimacy. "Strongest among men in enmity to the believers wilt thou find the Jews," and "the devil is your enemy," [Koranic verses]and Israel is a regional and world devil so treat it as an enemy.

The story of normalization is the story of rejection of Israel and is not a new story that we resort to after the fall of the first bastion.

Defeat does not mean that you are wrong and whoever defeated you is right because as Almighty God said: "Such days (of varying fortunes) we give to men and men by turns."

[Nasir] In a few weeks time it will be the millennium of the crusades. The question which imposes itself is this: Are the crusades really over?

[Fadlallah] The crusades are now more ferocious and severe than before because the problem is that some Muslims have joined in the crusades against the Muslims following the Islamic line started by the Prophet, may God's peace and prayers be upon him, from a genuine position in support of the causes of freedom and justice. So there is a crusade in depth but under different names, led by America, Europe, Russia, and states which fear the growth of the Islamic movement and the magnitude of the new Islamic awakening, because the Islamic movement proceeds to forge an alliance with all the oppressed in the Third World on the basis that Islam represents a movement advocating freedom and justice for all people, especially the oppressed about whom the holy Koran speaks, saying that they should not come under the influence of haughty powers. That is why we maintain that all the West, the Russian East, and the regimes aligned with the West in Islamic countries are waging a crusade against Islam and the Muslims in the name of war on fundamentalism and extremism. If they wanted to give the underlying meaning of such phrases they would have said that it is a war against Islam which seeks freedom for all peoples and justice for all the oppressed.

[Nasir] The Islamic states are very weak. The question is, does Islam, in spite of this weakness, pose such a threat to the West to warrant all that hostility?

[Fadlallah] Actually, the so-called Islamic states have weakened themselves because they have not tried to seek elements of strength and were in a hurry to impose weakness on themselves through the greed of the kings, princes, and presidents in charge. Coming under the Western influence was their chance of continuing in their positions of power. They have realized that the Islamic people would not subscribe to such ambitions because they want a rule stemming from Islam and Islamic tradition. That is why we see them trying to act to weaken themselves economically, in matters of security, politically, and culturally to convince their peoples that they need the West in everything and that they would be useless without the West and that it is the West which protects them from one another and frees them from occupation by others. Some in the Gulf claim that it was the United States and the allies who fought alongside it who were the ones who liberated them from Saddam's regime, but if they examined the matter in depth they would discover that the plan for the occupation of Kuwait was drawn up in Washington which drew a red line on the Saudi borders but not on the Kuwaiti border which created an atmosphere in which Saddam felt that he would have no problem occupying Kuwait. The United States planned to impoverish the Gulf and score a very cheap victory in the world and portray it as very great victory making it the master of the world in the political sense. As regards the claim that the West fears these regimes, it is not true because it made them guardians of its interests in their countries and policemen wielding more than one stick to lash the backs of their peoples. The West fears the Muslims living in Islamic countries and feels that the existing regimes are not stable regimes but rather troubled and shaky regimes which could fall under the effect of any popular uprising benefiting from the changing circumstances in the world. So, its war on Islam stems from its fear not of the regimes but of the peoples who have proved that pressure and repression cannot defeat them or drive them to abandon their Islamic feelings or the future they aspire to, a future of Islam based on the causes of freedom and justice in the world.

[Nasir] You have mentioned the Islamic awakening. The word awakening suggests that there was a state of slumber. Has this awakening really mustered all the elements of its surge?

[Fadlallah] The situation which preceded the Islamic awakening was like a state of slumber in that the Muslims — with the exception of some who followed the Islamic movement — relaxed in the face of nationalist, Marxist, and socialist currents leaving the arena to them to play freely and impose their ideologies, plans, and policies on them. It was a kind of relaxation inspiring sleep away from the scene of conflict. We even saw some ulema advising people against confrontation because that would mean death or complicate the life of the Muslims, and so on.

That slumber, however, was from time to time and from stage to stage interrupted by some full awakening in one country or another. I believe that the Islamic revolution in Iran started the Islamic awakening. By that I do not mean that the Islamic revolution was the movement which triggered the Islamic movement or that there was no Islamic movement before it, but the Islamic movements were in some positions in Islamic countries whereas the Islamic revolution was the earthquake and the trend which imposed itself on the whole arena. The Islamic revolution was able to shake the very depth of Islamic awareness which surged forward like a flood and high tide. That made the separate Islamic elements move to call on the West to keep its hands off Muslim wealth and not to undermine Muslim security, and to call on Muslims to make their own decisions and gear their wealth toward serving their economy and their future on the basis of their own intrinsic capabilities.

That is why the West began to feel that there is a new Islamic movement, but it is not new as far as the Islamic Shari'ah is concerned because what applied under Muhammad, may God's peace and prayers be upon him, will apply until doomsday and what was forbidden under him will remain so until doomsday. But it is a new Islam in its ideas, methods, and confrontation of the major challenges. The West has begun to feel that a new life is starting in the form a new jihadist movement and call, which explains this vicious onslaught on Islam and the Muslims.

[Nasir] If these advanced Islamic movements were hit, would that be the reaction to the awakening and how could we address that?

[Fadlallah] The jinni is out of the bottle and cannot possibly be returned to it. That jinni might sustain wounds and his powers might be weakened and some of his horizons curtailed but he will continue to monitor the future and every horizon he could open. From my study of all life I have arrived at the conclusion that nobody can cancel you out if you do not cancel yourself out. What is required is that the Muslim activists should not cancel themselves out and should not fall in the face of challenge but must stand firm and endure the pressure without falling, and should have patience, which is the highest value in Islam. As the problem we face in meeting the challenges is like (finger biting) where the one who screams first would be the one who makes and signs concessions, what is important, therefore, is that we should not scream and should control our pain as much as possible, and if we have to scream then let us do it after the other party does.

I believe that the Islamic activist mujahidin who have learned how to deliberately carry out martyrdom operations are the offspring of those of whom it was said: "Men said to them: 'A great army is gathering against you,' and frightened them. But it (only) increased their faith. They said: 'For us God sufficeth, and he is the best disposer of affairs.' And they returned with grace and bounty from God. No harm ever touched them for they followed the good pleasure of God, and God is the lord of bounties unbounded. It is only the evil one that suggests to you the fear of his votaries. Be ye not afraid of them, but fear me if ye have faith." [Koranic verse]

The Islamic awakening will not close its eyes and go to sleep but will continue to gaze into the sun and if there is mist or cloud the power of the sun will dispel it in a moment of dawn that will penetrate all clouds and mist.

Political Islam Review; AL-SHA'B 5 Sep

NC1009202995

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 5 September edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. MB Statement Denounces Military Court Referrals
2. Political Figures Criticize Courtmartialing of Civilians
3. Trial of MB By Military Courts Seen As Blow To Democracy
4. MB's Mashhur Defends Group's Legality
5. MB Figure Deplores Government's Onslaught on MB
6. Bar Association Member Views Government-MB Crisis
7. Labor Party Deputy Leader Urges Mubarak To Reconsider Decree
8. Israel Claims Egyptians Killed Israeli POW's

MB STATEMENT DENOUNCES MILITARY COURT REFERRALS

A 400-word statement by the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] denouncing the decree referring its members to military courts is published on page 5.

POLITICAL FIGURES CRITICIZE COURTMARTIALING OF CIVILIANS

All of page 12 is devoted to a statement issued by a number of political, religious, and professional figures criticizing the trial of civilians by military courts. The statement is signed by Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri, its deputy leader Dr. Hilmi Murad, and its Secretary General 'Adil Husayn; AL-SHA'B Chief Editor Majdi Husayn; Dr. 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-al-Futuh, assistant secretary general of the Arab Doctors Union; Islamic thinker Dr. Muhammad 'Amarah, AL-AHRAR Chief Editor Mustafa Bakri, AL-WAFD Chief Editor Jamal Badawi; Islamic Scholars Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali and Dr. Yusuf al- Qaradawi; Nasirite Party official Dr. Husam 'Isa, National Progressive Unionist Grouping member Dr. Isma'il Sabri 'Abdallah; and Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus, deputy head of the Press Syndicate. Under large photos of Muhammad al-Sayyid Habib, Dr. 'Isam al-'Aryan, Dr. Ibrahim al-Za'farani, and Hasan al-Jamal, who are among those being referred to military courts, the statement says: "The undersigned politicians, intellectuals, thinkers, trade unionists, independents, and figures representing the various intellectual and political currents in Egypt were surprised by the decree issued on Saturday, 2 September 1995, by Egyptian authorities referring a group of Muslim Brotherhood members to military courts, despite what is known about their belief in dialogue, their refutation of arguments with reason, their renunciation of violence, and their advocacy of peaceful means of seeking change. This measure constitutes a serious threat to thinkers and denies them any chance to exercise all the rights guaranteed them by the Constitution, including their natural right to security and freedom of opinion. Condemning this measure, we call on the president of the republic to reverse it immediately and to guarantee the right of all of them—especially Dr. Muhammad al-Sayyid Habib, head of the Teaching Staff at Asyut University; Dr. 'Isam al-'Aryan, assistant secretary general of the Egyptian Doctors Syndicate and former People's Assembly member—to be tried by regular judges. This is particularly so since the nation is now looking forward to the broadening of its freedoms in preparation for the coming People's Assembly elections."

TRIAL OF MB BY MILITARY COURTS SEEN AS BLOW TO DEMOCRACY

An approximately 700-word report on pages 1 and 8 highlights Republican Decree 179 of 1995, which refers 48 MB members to military courts on charges of "belonging to an illegitimate partisan organization." The report, headlined "A Crushing Blow to Democracy," notes that this measure heralds a new effort by the government to strike at the MB and force its members out of the coming parliamentary elections. The report gives the names of the 48 members, 28 of whom were arrested on 22 January and the rest in July. The report adds that Dr. 'Isam al-'Aryan has told the military prosecutor that he respects the military establishment but believes that it must not be dragged into this matter and that the dispute is between the MB and the State Security Intelligence Department, not the military establishment.

On page 3, several political and public figures, artists, and intellectuals denounce the referral of MB leaders to military courts as contrary to political pluralism.

MB'S MASHHUR DEFENDS GROUP'S LEGALITY

An approximately 1,000-word-article by MB Deputy Leader Mustafa Mashhur on page 5 defends the group's legality.

MB FIGURE DEPLORES GOVERNMENT'S ONSLAUGHT ON MB

MB figure 'Abd-al-Mun'im Jabarah comments on the government's onslaught on his group in an approximately 1,300-word on page 8.

BAR ASSOCIATION MEMBER VIEWS GOVERNMENT-MB CRISIS

Bar Association Member and Islamist figure Mukhtar Nuh contributes an approximately 1,800-word article entitled "What Does the State Want From the Muslim Brotherhood?" published on page 3. In his article, Nuh says the state's campaign of "harassment" against the

MB has reached its peak with the decision to refer its members to military courts. He believes that the state does not want to "eliminate" the MB movement but to "curtail" its influence and restrict it to a specified scope, as it has done with other leftist currents. He disagrees with those who believe that the current regime is out to get the MB. He notes that the so-called armed opposition in Egypt is not over even though the government thought it was, and that although its advocates are detained, few of them have repented. This, he adds, shows that the state needs the cooperation of peaceful and moderate currents to make sure that once these activists are released they will not become "bullets" seeking revenge on the regime or its advocates.

Nuh adds that another reason is that world pressure over human rights may discourage the state from oppressing a peaceful movement such as the MB. Nuh argues that it is possible for the state and the MB to find common ground, as was the case under previous regimes and even under the present regime. Accordingly, he believes that there is no advantage for the state in getting rid of a movement that it could reach an agreement with, which would provoke social turmoil and international criticism.

Nuh believes that the real problem between the MB and the state is that the state does not permit any party or movement to play a role that may threaten the state's "social control." He points out that Mubarak is aware of the "peaceful" nature of the MB, but he wants the MB to give up its social role, which would mean the MB would have to relinquish its "exclusive domination" of the professional associations, teaching clubs, and charity organizations, particularly those with an international role, such as the Relief Committees. Noting that the state would not like to be seen as making concessions to the MB nor would the MB be able to function if its social activity is suspended or curtailed, Nuh concludes that the only way out of this "predicament" is for the state to find a "realistic negotiator" who could increase the regime's supporters at home and abroad and consolidate democracy. The MB would also have to find an "acceptable negotiator" who could persuade the regime that all it wants is an appropriate atmosphere for freedom of expression, religion, and opinion. He adds: "If we find a realistic negotiator and an acceptable negotiator, the crisis will end and so will the role of those who are leading the state down a road that begins with the abuse of human rights and ends God knows where."

LABOR PARTY DEPUTY LEADER URGES MUBARAK TO RECONSIDER DECREE

Labor Party Deputy Chairman Dr. Hilmi Murad, in an approximately 1,500-word article on page 5, says that political and partisan figures were "horrified" by the report in AL-AHRAM on 2 September that civilian MB members have been referred to the military prosecutor on charges of "organizing to participate in the coming People's Assembly elections." He notes that the horror comes from the fact that the defendants were not found in possession of any weapons or explosives, so they cannot be accused of threatening security or attempting to seize power by force. They are said to demand the establishment of an "Islamic regime", but this does not conflict with the Constitutions, Article 2 of which says that Islam is the state's religion and that the principles of Islamic shari'ah are the primary source of legislation. He adds that meetings of individuals who wish to contest elections without belonging to any of the existing parties cannot be viewed as unlawful, for such meetings are necessary to organize a campaign. In addition, civilians should not be tried by military courts, which have jurisdiction over military personnel only. He notes that civilians who engage in politics now fear that they may be dragged to military courts for no reason, and the rulings there cannot be appealed. Concluding, Murad urges President Mubarak to reconsider his decision; this would reassure the public and reassert the civilian judiciary's jurisdiction over civilian matters.

ISRAELI CLAIMS EGYPTIANS KILLED ISRAELI POW'S

An approximately 300-word report by Mahmud Bakri on page 1 notes that the Israeli Government has tasked 19 historians in "Zionist universities" to gather all the information they can find on the killing of Israeli POW's by Egyptian officers and soldiers in the 1973 war. The report adds that this is an attempt by the Israeli Government to deflect the rising anger in Egypt over the killing of Egyptian POW's. The report adds that the Egyptian Government's "indecisive" stance on the matter and its assurance that it will not affect bilateral ties with Israel have encouraged Israel to ignore Egyptian demands for an investigation. The report adds that the American ambassador to Israel has "submitted information to the Israeli Government claiming that eight Israeli POW's were killed by Egyptians in the 1973 war and that an American pilot recorded this incident during the war."

Palestinian Affairs

PA Sentences 2 Murder Suspects Sought by Israel

TA1209093495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Last night, the Palestinian Authority [PA] hastily tried the two people who murdered Uri Shahor and Ohad Bachrach in Wadi al-Qilt, handing down seven-year prison terms. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the two, Shahir and Yusuf Ra'i, members of a known Qalqilyah clan, were charged with disturbing the peace, incitement against the peace process, and harming the PA's security.

The Jericho general prosecutor said they admitted to the charges, but PA sources said the two have no connection with the murder of the two Israelis. Our correspondent has learned that the two reached Jericho about a month ago and received refuge there, but the authorities did not take the trouble to start proceedings against them until Israel demanded their extradition.

'Abbas on Extradition Issue

TA1309113895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 13 Sep 95

[Report by Yoni Ben-Menahem]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The issue of the extradition of the Wadi al-Qilt terrorists continues to occupy the Palestinians. Reports that Israel intends to demand changes to the agreement — as far as the extradition of terrorists who have carried out attacks after the Oslo agreement is concerned — are cause for concern in their camp.

Dr. Mahmud 'Abbas [Abu-Mazin], one of the architects of the Oslo agreement and member of the PLO Executive Committee, had the following to say about this issue. [passage omitted] Abu-Mazin says it is dangerous to demand changes in the agreement. The Palestinians also have reservations and demands as far as changing the agreement is concerned. Abu-Mazin recalls that the Palestinian opposition is in principle opposed to the agreement. He says that we must wait for the full implementation of the agreement and that only then should we examine the possibility of introducing changes.

On the occasion of the second anniversary of the agreement, Abu- Mazin says the implementation of the first part of the agreement has proceeded without a hitch. He expressed optimism about the possibility of implementing the second stage of the agreement in the West Bank.

Concerning the problem of Hebron, Abu-Mazin says it must not be put off until the final-arrangement stage. Everything that applies to the other cities in the West Bank must also apply to Hebron. We understand Israel's need to protect the settlers in the center of the city, but Israel must withdraw from all other parts of Hebron.

Abu-Mazin also said that Israel's traditional security concept has failed and has become obsolete in the wake of the Gulf war. It is totally valueless in the age of missiles. He added that the Palestinians are the only party that can guarantee safe borders for Israel.

'Abbas Interviewed on Developments Since Oslo

MM1209143895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Sep 95 p 4

[Interview with Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee and Fatah Central Committee, by Husayn Hijazi in Gaza; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hijazi] A long time (two years) has passed since the signing of the Oslo agreement in the White House garden. You have visited Gaza three times and returned to Tunis. What is the impression in Gaza? Does the difference between the text and the reality amaze you?

['Abbas] There can be no doubt that, in our case, I expected some stumbling along the way and many mistakes in the implementation, as well as a performance which may be good or may be bad. In brief, I was under no prior illusions because all similar beginnings carry such expectations. My feeling was and still is one of fear for the experiment because there are many obstacles and the efforts made are not of the same frightful magnitude as these obstacles. In addition to the natural obstacles, some people behaved as if their aim was to abort the experiment. I am here referring to the Palestinian opposition and its partner the Israeli opposition, which is stronger and more fierce. All that was enough to justify fear of failure of the experiment.

But now I feel more reassured than on my earlier visits because the Palestinian Authority [PA] has passed the more difficult test of controlling security in its areas, although I realized from the beginning that the Israeli demands for the prevention of armed operations were unjustified because that is almost impossible to achieve. At any rate, what I notice now is that the Authority has made good efforts and security in Gaza and Jericho is almost normal.

As regards implementation of the agreement, the first observation which should be recorded is that the Israelis are behaving as if they are discovering the Oslo agreement for the first time. That is the cause of the current disagreement over the Hebron issue. The Israeli attempts to sidestep the provisions of the Oslo agreement is the only cause of all this hassle of the past months, but we maintain that the provisions of the Oslo agreement are clear: Hebron is a part of the populated areas and the provisions, on redeployment and elections, which apply to the other Palestinian towns also apply to Hebron — Articles 3 and 13 in particular. But for Israel to come now and say that, for the sake of some settlers in Hebron, it could not withdraw from the town, is indicative of an attitude of someone who does not want to establish peace and coexist. The Palestinian negotiators are right to request Israeli withdrawal from Hebron, like the other towns, and before that they were right in refusing to postpone the Hebron issue until the final phase because we made great efforts in Oslo to determine and specify the issues to be dealt with in the final phase. So, today we do not want to further complicate already complex issues by adding the issue of Hebron to them. I could understand it if the Israelis were determined to maintain this kind of provocative settlement out of their desire not open the file of settlement as a whole, but I cannot see that as a justification for holding Hebron hostage in order to convey insistence on an obsolete ideological position. Yet we may be willing to consider acceptance of some security measures for the protection of those settlers but under the PA's overall security control over the town. I say to the Israelis that the PA can protect the settlers in Hebron better than the Israeli Army.

[Hijazi] It seems that some Israeli security concepts have been overturned. On the eve of the Oslo agreement the point of contention was withdrawal from Qalqilyah, which represents Israel's soft underbelly, but now it is Hebron, which is not Israel's soft underbelly.

['Abbas] I believe that the traditional Israeli security concept as a whole collapsed and became outdated after the Gulf war. Geographical security is no longer comprehensible in the age of missiles. We saw that during the Gulf war. But the main point, in my view, is that anyone who applies such ideologies to the making of peace would in fact be putting a wrench in the works in advance. The situation is as follows: The Palestinians, whether those in the Authority or in the opposition, want peace but not peace at any price and not a humiliating peace. If Israel were to come tomorrow and say to the Palestinians that it wants to withdraw from all the territories of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem, to the 1967 borders so the Palestinian people can build their future on these territories, would any Palestinian in the world object and say that he is against that? We are talking about major ideologies. And since when has Hebron been at the heart of settlement?

[Hijazi] I meant to say that they were overturning the equation because the insistence on Hebron lacks the traditional pretexts, be it under the Alon theory, the Israeli soft underbelly theory, or the settlement theory.

['Abbas] That is true. I can add that settlement, all settlement in the West Bank and Jerusalem is a settlement of annexation not of security. Why? Because security no longer falls under that concept. If they want to solve the problem of security, we are willing to have that done through agreements and mutual measures. Illusions must end, because the Palestinians are the only party which can safeguard Israel's security borders. So let us agree on mutual measures to protect our interests and theirs, our borders and theirs, our security and theirs. But to plant a settlement here and another there for the alleged purpose of early warning or late warning, etcetera, that is sheer nonsense and is some kind of what is known as expansionist settlement. We utterly reject that concept and we reject any Israeli expansion across the 1967 borders. They must understand that they must leave all the 1967 territory including the Jerusalem border.

[Hijazi] The second anniversary of the agreement, on the implementation of which you differ, will be on 13 July. While there are reasons to complain about the frustrating Israeli partner, do you feel that Palestinian implementation and performance are good?

['Abbas] One cannot say that implementation has been 100 percent good or 100 percent bad. This experiment is new to us from beginning to end. We are ruling ourselves for the first time. There are many complex problems. Like other newly liberated peoples, we are facing specific relevant obstacles, but I say that we have the advantage of having a foothold and yet unexploited qualifications. Some other nations achieved independence with not even 5 percent of their population able to read and write. We enter the phase of independence with less than 5 percent illiteracy. That is the difference which justifies better expectations for us. But let me sum up what has been happening as follows: Over the past 50 years the clock was ticking but now, after Oslo, it is moving forward and the train is moving forward on its tracks. We may not reach the final station in one or several years but we will reach it eventually. For 50 years before Oslo the Palestinians used to leave the homeland. After Oslo their direction was reversed and they have begun returning to the homeland.

[Hijazi] Is it the feeling that the Palestinian experiment is unusual that sometimes gives you the motivation to justify the mistakes and the shortcomings?

['Abbas] To a large extent, yes, because no nation has ever been uprooted and replaced by another. That is why this experiment of negotiation, reconstruction, repatriation, and everything else is a unique experiment. Inasmuch as I maintain that we have great capabilities and qualifications, I also blame us for the mistakes that are bound to occur sometimes.

[Hijazi] But do you believe that these mistakes are within bearable limits?

['Abbas] Yes, they are within acceptable limits but because we are special people — and I do not say that out of conceit or chauvinism — and because we have real expertise, I hope to see less such mistakes.

[Hijazi] There have been two negotiation experiments after the Oslo agreement. The first was in Cairo and it was close to being public. The second was in Elat and Tabah and close to being secret. With Nabil Sha'th we felt that everything was taking place over the table but in Elat we feel that the negotiations are taking place under the table. How do you view this contradiction?

['Abbas] I do not believe the secret experiment of Oslo will be repeated because it was special circumstances which compelled both sides to control their nerves because they realized that even one word in public would torpedo the entire process. Both sides were anxious to ensure the success of the negotiations, hence the secrecy, but the current Elat negotiations are different. I am not in favor of advertised negotiations but I am not against public negotiations. In other words, I am not in favor of negotiations through the media where every time we come out of a negotiation session we hold a press conference and say what went on in the negotiations. That method is harmful to the negotiators and the negotiations. Why? Because each side wants to appear to its public as the side which made no concession and would want to stick to certain forms which it would abandon inside the negotiating chamber. We would then be negotiating through the press and with the press, and that is detrimental to the negotiations. But not preferring negotiations through the press does not mean that the current negotiations can proceed in complete secrecy. There is some distance between the public and secret negotiations and that should be taken into consideration.

[Hijazi] Two years after the signing of the Oslo agreement, do you sometimes feel that you are on the defensive as far as the Oslo agreement is concerned or that you need to clarify certain things?

['Abbas] Not on the defensive, but sometimes I feel a need to clarify certain points that are not clear to the public. Here I very much regret to say that, despite the fact that we published the Oslo agreement, many people did not read it thoroughly enough to understand it. That is why I am sometimes forced to explain certain articles, not because I am on the defensive but in the interest of clarity because it is shameful sometimes to see that some officials did not read the agreement and that they confused its articles. My feeling is that with that agreement we got the maximum possible to put the Palestinian people on the road to independence. But I always tell my brothers: We should not exaggerate what we achieved lest we lose it, and we should not underestimate what we achieved lest we waste it.

[Hijazi] But the question is where is Abu-Mazin ['Abbas] after two years of negotiations for the implementation of the agreement?

['Abbas] In my main capacity as member of the Executive Committee and of the Fatah leadership, I am at the heart of events and not distant from them. I see all details and I participate with my brothers in expressing views and taking stands, but I am not directly responsible although I have been directly following the negotiations with brother Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] and the brother members of the negotiating team. I do not just come to the homeland to visit but to prepare the ground for my final return to settle down here.

[Hijazi] How do you view the prospects of a phased agreement? Are the Palestinians in a position that compels them to quickly accept a modest ceiling pertaining to the drawing of maps for the final solution, or should they wait for a higher ceiling?

['Abbas] Haste to reach a solution with a low ceiling would, in my view, be wrong. I believe that we had some delay in achieving a phased solution in the past and there is no harm in being a little late because we have no right, in the interest of time, to accept just any solution with a low ceiling. It is not a question of time, or it is no longer a question of time, because in practical terms we in Gaza are engaged in a building operation which is very important. Furthermore, in the West Bank we have powers. Six powers have recently been transferred [to the Palestinians] in addition to the previous eight powers. That means we are in a position to work on the ground. We have time and there is no need to rush. We were late before, so let us be a little late again. What is the problem, if we want to achieve a solution to our advantage? Furthermore, we are negotiating for our rights. I say that the Oslo agreement is not an ideal agreement. It does not give us what we want but it also does not give them everything they want. As we have signed the agreement, I am not prepared to concede any right guaranteed for me under the agreement. Otherwise, every article in the agreement would become open to cancellation, amendment, or change, and that would render the agreement useless.

'Arafat Leaves for 'Emergency' Talks with Mubarak

JN1209152595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Sep 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat left the homeland for the city of Alexandria, Egypt, this afternoon to hold an emergency and important meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. Before leaving, President 'Arafat said that the visit was important at this particular time when obstacles were hampering the negotiations.

Responding to a question by the Jericho Voice of Palestine, President 'Arafat said that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak was making every effort to overcome all obstacles and advance the peace process. President 'Arafat will hold consultations with Egyptian President Mubarak. 'Arafat said he hoped that the agreements with the Israeli side would be implemented. The president is accompanied on his visit to Alexandria by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation.

President 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres are expected to meet in Taba tomorrow, Wednesday, to resume talks on ways to resolve outstanding issues and reach an agreement to implement the second stage of the Declaration of Principles.

'Arafat Said To Doubt Usefulness of Peres Meeting

NC1209150795 Paris AFP in English 1349 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Sept 12 (AFP) — PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat questioned the usefulness of a planned meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, given that autonomy negotiations are blocked, his spokesman said Tuesday [12 September].

'Arafat was expected to arrive in Alexandria, Egypt, later Tuesday for talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, the PLO leader's spokesman Marwan Kanafani said.

"Mr. 'Arafat will have urgent meetings with Mubarak on the usefulness of Wednesday's meeting" with Peres in Taba, Egypt, along the border with Israel, Kanafani added.

"The two leaders will discuss the obstacles that prevent the conclusion of an accord, especially the issue of Hebron," he added.

Israel's refusal to withdraw its army from the volatile West Bank town of Hebron, where 400 Jews live amid 120,000 Palestinians, remains the main obstacle to reaching an accord on the next phase of self-rule.

According to 'Arafat advisor Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, the PLO leader wants a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to unblock negotiations on extending Palestinian autonomy across the West Bank.

"The meeting in Taba could serve to prepare a meeting between president 'Arafat and Prime Minister Rabin to settle the unresolved issues and see if Israel is serious about reaching an agreement before September 24," Abu-Rudaynah said.

He added that the PLO was ready to soften its position and accept a gradual Israeli withdrawal from Hebron over three months.

Fatah Leaders Threaten To Boycott PA Elections

TA1209144095 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Sep 95 p A3

[Report by Ori Nir]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Fatah Movement in the West Bank has decided not to participate in the elections to the Palestinian Authority [PA] council if the PA's negotiating team "surrenders" on the Hebron issue and deviates from the "red lines" stipulated by Hebron's residents regarding security arrangements in the city. The decision, which was passed during a session held by the Fatah Supreme Committee in the West Bank about one week ago, could foil the elections.

Muhammad al-Hurani, a Hebron Fatah leader who participated in the Hebron talks held in the framework of the interim arrangement talks in Elat, yesterday said that the PA's decisions on the Hebron issue could cause a rift between the PA and the Fatah leadership in the West Bank. "Fatah's position does not always have to coincide with the PA's position," he said. He said 'Arafat is under severe pressure not to cave in on the Hebron issue. He said the PA should also be interested in not forcing on Hebron's residents a solution which is unacceptable to them, because "the situation on the ground is not always under the leadership's control. Sometimes the public's sentiments are calling the shots in the field. It must be understood that the public's willingness to make concessions has its limits."

During an interview at the Fatah office in Hebron yesterday, al- Hurani and his colleagues from the city's Fatah leadership explained that unless a real change takes place in the living conditions of the Palestinians in Hebron, the influence of the opposition organizations in the city will be greatly enhanced, both from the political viewpoint and in everything relating to protest action and violence. [passage omitted]

The Palestinians are concerned that the continued presence of the settlers in the center of Hebron means the continuation of the special security arrangements made to defend them, consequently the continuation of their daily ordeal. They say that the settlers' presence leads to a military presence, and this means the continuation of the occupation. "We are unwilling to hold the elections under occupation," said Jamal al-Shubaki — Hebron's representative in the Fatah Supreme Committee in the West Bank — thus explaining why he recommended boycotting the elections.

Shaykh Taysir Bayyud al-Tamimi, head of the Hebron shari'ah court, which was moved to the old city of Hebron last week, yesterday said in his office that the continuation of the city's occupation also means the continuation of violence.

Commander on Possible Talks With 'Democratic' Hamas

*BR1209143895 Milan PANORAMA in Italian
14 Sep 95 p 61*

[Interview with General Nasir Yusuf, "head of Palestinian armed forces," by unidentified correspondent in Gaza; date not given: "Who Will Protect the Settlers?" — first paragraph is PANORAMA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] General Nasir Yusuf is the man to whom 'Arafat has entrusted the command of all his armed forces. PANORAMA met with him in Gaza.

[PANORAMA] Will you be able to guarantee security on the West Bank once the Israelis have pulled out?

[Yusuf] Undoubtedly. We have managed in Gaza, where conditions are much more difficult. We shall manage there as well.

[PANORAMA] What assurances do you feel you can give the settlers who stay on in your territory?

[Yusuf] First of all, responsibility for protecting the settlers will remain with the Israelis. However, the issue of the Jewish settlements will have to be brought up again in the negotiations on a permanent settlement as well. In the light of our experience, we see only two long-term possibilities in Gaza: Either the settlers are evacuated or they are invited to become full-fledged Palestinian nationals.

[PANORAMA] How are you conducting the battle against terrorist extremism among the Palestinians?

[Yusuf] Palestinian terrorism is sustained by a certain ideology and encouraged by a situation that is not yet entirely stable. There is no doubt that progress toward a political settlement remains the main factor capable of curbing extremism. The majority of our people supports the peace negotiating process.

[PANORAMA] Do you believe it would be easier to control the extremist fringes if Hamas were to form a political party?

[Yusuf] If Hamas adopts democratic methods, we will have no objection to its entry into the political area. But we refuse to deal with an armed opposition: We have to fight it.

Al-Husayni, Spain's Solana Discuss EU, Peace Process

*BR1209115395 Madrid EFE in Spanish
0940 GMT 12 Sep 95*

[Unattributed report: "Palestinian Leader Notes Existence of Obstacles in Peace Process"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Madrid, 12 Sep (EFE) — Faysal al-Husayni, the Palestinian leader, today admitted that there are several obstacles to progress in the Middle East peace process, but he was optimistic in stating that the end of the process would be positive.

Al-Husayni, member of the National Palestinian Authority, which is presided over by Yasir 'Arafat, met today in Madrid with Foreign Minister Javier Solana to evaluate the development of talks in the region and possible economic cooperation with the EU.

Among the existing obstacles he mentioned the security in the Hebron valley, the "Israeli refusal" to release Palestinian prisoners, and the judicial status of Jerusalem.

With regard to the terrorist attacks that are occuring, al-Husayni said that "every government is obliged to control its people," and he said he hoped for a peaceful solution to the Middle East conflict which has lasted several decades and which saw the beginning of negotiations during the 1991 Conference of Madrid.

During this four-year period the most important accomplishment has been "the end of the taboos" against the Palestinians, according to al-Husayni, who also stressed that "right now we are negotiating on our territory from within and not from without."

The National Palestinian Authority will be present at the Euro- Mediterranean Conference which will unite the 15 EU states and the Southern Mediterranean states from Morocco to Lebanon, with the exception of Libya, in Barcelona in November.

The Palestinians are interested in attending the conference, more particularly for economic reasons because one of the topics on the agenda of this conference is the establishment of cooperation between both sides of the Mediterranean.

Javier Solana referred to the aid granted by the EU in 1994 to the tune of $450 million (some 55 billion pesetas).

The minister also referred to the Spanish support to the peace process, not only as a country but also in its current role as president of the EU. He also said that the prime minister, Felipe Gonzalez, is traveling to Israel, Gaza, Syria, Egypt, and Lebanon at present.

With regard to the hypothesis that the EU may assign a mediator to follow up on the peace process, Solana said that it is a possibility whose aim would be the permanent assignment of a representative of the Fifteen dedicated to supporting the negotiations.

Algeria

Zeroual To Run as Candidate of 'People's Marches'

MM1209125695 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Sep 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Zeroual Is 'Marches Candidate' Following Generals' 'Objection' to Nominating Military Man for Presidency"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Algiers, AL-HAYAH — Informed sources in Algiers stressed yesterday that the Military Command meeting held last Saturday under President Liamine Zeroual witnessed disagreements among its members as regards supporting Zeroual's candidacy for the elections scheduled for 16 November. It seems that Zeroual will be the candidate of "the people's marches" organized in his support, rather than a candidate of the "military establishment."

More than one source stressed that the Algerian president will soon announce his candidacy, regardless of the position of the Army command or some senior officers.

The informed Algerian sources said that Zeroual presided over a meeting of the general staff commanders attended by Chief of Staff Major General Mohamed Lamari following his return from Paris. The sources said that disagreements erupted among participants over "the military establishment's candidate." And that the majority of the commanders expressed their view that the military should pull out of political life and open the door for politicians to compete. Lamari reiterated at the meeting his objection to "nominating any military man for the post of president of the republic."

Some sources believe that this position reduces the chances of support for Zeroual, who is under pressure from his supporters to run for president. Zeroual's supporters defend his candidacy on the grounds that he represents an opportunity to restore security and stability to the country. However, it seems that another tendency in the regime is not convinced of this analysis and believes that Algeria has experienced an escalation in security operations in Zeroual's era.

AL-HAYAH has learned that Batna province (in the Aures mountains, and President Zeroual's birthplace) has for three days been experiencing violent confrontations between armed groups and Army forces reinforced by aircraft. The confrontations are taking place because of the ambushes to which Army vehicles have been subjected in Batna and Ain Touta, 30 km south of Banta.

Eyewitnesses have said that scores have been killed or wounded, and that some [of the wounded] have been moved by special plane to Aid Naja Military Hospital in the capital.

There is also fighting taking place in the Aures mountains between Army forces, reinforced by aircraft, and armed groups.

The authorities in Batna had planned to organize a march in support of President Zeroual's candidacy, because he is from the province, but the warnings issued to the local authorities by the gunmen, to the effect that they would "burn down the city" if its residents staged a march, caused the authorities to postpone the march and call in Army forces.

Judicial sources have disclosed to AL-HAYAH that 63 judges have submitted their resignations this week without stating the reasons.

The Armed [Islamic] Group had issued a warning to the judiciary, giving them a month to relinquish their jobs. The deadline expires on 15 September.

Meanwhile, Algerian newspapers did not appear yesterday, in protest at the assassination of media men in Algeria last week. This protest will continue for three days.

Lecturer Announces Candidacy for Presidency

LD1209193095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Berber 1200 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mohamed Antar Sayeh, a lecturer, writer, and a researcher in internation relations, is the 16th candidate for the presidency. The announcement of his candidacy was reported by APS earlier today.

Security Forces, Islamists in 'Major Shoot-Out'

LD1209132895 Paris France-2 Teletext in French 1309 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A major shoot-out has been taking place on the heights of Algiers since this morning. Traffic has either come to a halt or has been diverted.

This is a major clash between the security forces, backed by the army, and a group of Islamists armed with various weapons.

The district has been cordoned off, and ambulances have gone to the scene.

Eleven Islamists Killed

LD1209164395 Paris LCI Television in French 1600 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security forces have launched a large-scale operation in Algiers: According to eyewitnesses, there has been heavy fire since early this morning on the heights of the Algerian capital.

An armed group had found refuge in a house that was surrounded by the security forces.

We have just heard that the security forces have ended their operation. Eleven Islamists have been killed.

Security Forces Kill 14 'Terrorists'

LD1209195695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Djebel Koukou operation on the heights of Bab El Oued, in Algiers, which led to the intervention of the security forces, has resulted in the elimination of a dangerous terrorist group of 14 criminals. A statement released by the security services says that on the strength of information pointing to the presence of a dangerous terrorist group in a house in Djebel Koukou, the security forces launched a successful operation to locate the group. The same source added that after an exchange of fire with the criminals the security forces stormed the house, where the terrorist group had taken a family hostage. According to a provisional toll, 14 terrorists were killed in the operation. [passage omitted] Knives, automatic weapons, grenades, and ammunition were recovered during the operation.

Egypt

Mubarak Plans U.S. Visit for Peace Process Ceremony

NC1309101695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 13 Sep (MENA)—MENA has learned that President Husni Mubarak is expected to visit Washington at the end of next week. During the visit he will attend a ceremony for the signing of an agreement on the second stage of Palestinian self-rule. He will also hold meetings with U.S. President Bill Clinton, senior U.S. Administration officials, and leading Congressional figures.

Intensive contacts between Cairo and Washington are now under way to prepare for President Mubarak's visit and program in the U.S. capital.

U.S. officials expressed President Clinton's readiness to host the signing ceremony for the Palestinian-Israeli agreement at the White House, once such an agreement is reached.

U.S. officials also noted the U.S. President's willingness to invite President Husni Mubarak and King Husayn of Jordan to attend the ceremony. President Clinton believes this will add to the credibility of the peace process and emphasize that it is getting more solid as time goes by despite attempts by "the enemies of peace" to hinder it from all sides.

Several dates were set for the signing ceremony last month, and preparations were made in the White House, but the signing was postponed each time because the Palestinians and Israelis could not remove the many obstacles at the negotiations and because of pressing circumstances that obstructed the negotiations more than once.

Informed U.S. sources said the final date for the White House signing will be fixed in light of contacts with the concerned parties and after Palestinian and Israeli official institutions approve the content of the agreement. But the sources said it is likely the signing will take place on or around 25 September.

'Arafat, Mubarak Discuss Peace Talks 'Impasse'

JN1209202095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Sep 95

[Report by Hanadi al-Imam in Cairo]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat held a meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Alexandria this evening. They discussed the recent developments of the peace process on the Palestinian track.

Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, who attended the meeting, said President 'Arafat explained the current impasse in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, particularly the Hebron issue. The Israelis reject redeployment in Hebron. Sha'th added that what the Israelis have proposed is totally unacceptable to the Palestinian side.

Presidents 'Arafat and Mubarak also discussed other obstacles impeding an agreement on the second phase as well as Israel's noncommitment to the Declaration of Principles which it signed. Cooperation between Egypt and Palestine was also discussed.

The two presidents also discussed the expulsion of Palestinians from Libya after Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi decided to expel all Palestinians residing on Libyan territory, as well as the role Egypt can play in this regard.

President 'Arafat is expected to meet with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa this evening and with Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and head of the President's Office for Political Affairs, tomorrow morning to discuss means for Egyptian intervention regarding the impasse in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations prior to President 'Arafat's departure for Taba at noon tomorrow, Wednesday, to resume talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

President 'Arafat is currently meeting with 'Abd-al-Hamid Shuman, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Arab Bank, to discuss aid which can be extended through the Committee for Developing and Reconstructing Palestine.

Foreign Minister Comments on Addis Ababa Trip

NC1209122795 Paris AFP in English
0841 GMT 12 Sep 95

[Report by Lee Keath]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Cairo, Sept 12 (AFP)—Egypt said it had the right to self-defense against Sudan as the Organization for African Unity (OAU) blamed Khartoum for an attempt to kill President Husni Mubarak, an Egyptian paper reported Tuesday [12 September].

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa urged members of an emergency OAU meeting in Addis Ababa to "stand together against Sudan's behavior" in support of Islamic militants, the daily AL-AHRAM said. [passage omitted]

Musa told AL-AHRAM the panel had asked the United Nations "to follow developments in the investigations."

He also presented the panel with a list of 20 camps in Sudan for training armed Islamic extremists, the paper said.

An unnamed African diplomat said the meeting, scheduled to focus on the conflict on Burundi, had "turned into an open trial of the Sudanese government." [passage omitted]

Comments on OAU Meeting

NC1209132895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1218 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo from Ethiopia today following a two-day visit during which he attended the meeting of the foreign ministers of the member countries of the OAU Central Apparatus for Conflict Resolution.

Musa announced he will submit a detailed report to President Husni Mubarak later today on the agreements reached during the above meeting and also during his meeting with Ethiopian Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin.

He said the final statement issued by the African foreign ministers was based on a draft submitted by Ethiopia and adopted by the Conflict Resolution Apparatus with some amendments. He explained that OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmed Salim will follow up the implementation of the provisions of this statement.

Musa declared that Egypt is following up the issue with the OAU, its secretary general, and Ethiopia.

He said Ethiopia is waiting for Sudan to hand over the three suspects it is demanding in line with the OAU resolution.

Commenting on his meeting with the Ethiopian foreign minister, 'Amr Musa said they discussed the investigation into the assault on President Mubarak, particularly as this attack was directed against the Egyptian head of state and occurred on Ethiopian territory. Musa added that it can also be viewed as an attack on the OAU, hence the OAU secretary general has particular tasks to perform in this regard. He said Ethiopia is continuing its investigation and Egypt is following up developments closely.

He noted that all the concerned parties are coordinating the measures they will put into force now that the Sudanese regime has been condemned.

Musa reported that the meeting of the Conflict Resolution Apparatus was important, noting that for the first time a particular country was being put on trial and its status and policies analyzed. He added that Ethiopia submitted facts and evidence pertaining to terrorism and some countries' involvement in it. He said the apparatus discussed terrorism, particularly state terrorism.

Cairo Recognizes Libya's Policy on Illegal Workers

NC1209141595 Paris AFP in English
1131 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Salloum, Egypt, Sept 12 (AFP) - Egypt recognized on Tuesday Tripoli's right to take action against Egyptians working illegally in Libya after some 7,000 illegal workers left the country last week.

"We can't allow Egyptians to work in Libya without contracts and residency," the Egyptian counsul to the Libyan city of Banghazi, Midhat Shukri al-Sha'ir, told AFP at the border post of al-Sallum.

"These were security measures Libya took and we respect their right to do so," al-Sha'ir said.

The consul was returning to his post in Banghazi after a vacation in Egypt, and said he would "confirm the situation of workers there."

But he underlined that "Libya respects the remaining Egyptians who have proper papers."

"There must be some organization and coordination on travel of workers between the two countries," al-Sha'ir said without specifying how many illegal Egyptian workers had left Libya.

Egyptians crossing the border on Monday reported that "almost all the Egyptians" without work permits had been expelled in the area from Sirte to Banghazi on Libya's Mediterranean coast.

Witnesses said 7,000 illegal Egyptian workers crossed the border at al-Sallum in the space of several days after being thrown out of their homes in Libya.

Libya has denied taking any action against Egyptian workers, legal or illegal, saying it has begun a campaign only to eject Africans and especially Sudanese.

Tripoli has stepped up the expulsion of foreign workers since troubles erupted in the eastern city of Banghazi on Wednesday in which 20 Islamic militants and 10 police were reported to have died. Libya has denied any unrest took place.

Algerian Foreign Minister Stops in Cairo, Comments

*NC1209144395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1350 GMT 12 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Sep (MENA)—Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri has declared that his country backs Egypt in its opposition to the extremism and terrorism sponsored by some countries.

The Algerian foreign minister was speaking at Cairo Airport where he stopped for an hour on his way back to his country from Addis Ababa. There he attended the meeting of the foreign ministers of the member states of the OAU Central Apparatus for Conflict Resolution.

Dembri said: The reports submitted by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and the evidence supplied by the Ethiopian Government concerning Sudan's involvement in the failed attempt to assassinate President Husni Mubarak were very objective.

Dembri explained that the foreign ministers signed the statement issued by the meeting without any reservations. He noted that the statement spelled out each country's responsibilities and urged all African states to respect the code of behavior set forth by the United Nations, the Arab League, and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. He noted that the statement urged the African countries to condemn the terrorism sponsored by some states.

Dembri reported that OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmed Salim will follow up developments pertaining to this issue and submit a report on it to the next OAU summit.

Israeli 'Intransigence' Over Hebron Viewed

*NC1309064495 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0510 GMT 13 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Sep (MENA)—AL-AHRAM says Israeli intransigence over Hebron in the occupied West Bank remains the main stumbling block to the ratification of an agreement concerning the second phase of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

In its comment today the paper says that although the Palestinian and Israeli sides achieved slight progress during the recent talks between President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Taba, this progress was partial and failed to patch up their differences completely. The two sides have failed to abide by the target date of 18 September set for the signing of an agreement in Washington on expanding Palestinian self-rule.

AL-AHRAM says the solution submitted by Israel for Hebron remains a transitional step, not a final settlement to the crisis. It notes that Israel proposed dividing the town into two security zones, the first under the Palestinian administration, and the other under Israeli security administration.

AL-AHRAM blames Israel for the stalemate in the negotiations, adding that Tel Aviv's insistence on wresting more Palestinian concessions, not to mention the continuous spirit of arrogance of the Israeli negotiator, complicates the various issues in the two sides' negotiations.

'Collective Condemnation' of Khartoum Discussed

NC1209151195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 12 Sep 95

[Commentary by 'Atif 'Umar: "International Training Camps on Sudanese Soil Expose al-Bashir's Agent Regime"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The collective condemnation by the ministers and representatives of 30 African countries of an OAU member state yesterday is considered the first of its kind. For the first time in the history of the OAU a whole session was dedicated to discussing the Ethiopian statement on the foiled assault against President Husni Mubarak, who was on his way to attend the OAU meeting organized in Addis Ababa last June to discuss the harsh economic and political conditions in the majority of African states. The lowly attempt perpetrated by a clique harboring malice against the Egyptian people precluded President Mubarak's participation in those meetings. This is in spite of the importance of that participation for the regional people, who need the views of wise Arab and African leaders to emerge from the predicament they are experiencing amid the major challenges facing developing states, primarily the African.

For the first time, African ministers dedicated a whole session to discussing the Ethiopian Interior Ministry statement, which proved beyond doubt that the Sudanese regime was involved in planning and financing the conspiracy and in training the cadres that took part in the assault, as well as in refusing to hand over the traitorous criminals who took part in the operation. This implies that if the Egyptian police put their hands on these criminals, other outlaws working in the dark to strike at stability in Egypt and at the Egyptian people themselves will definitely be exposed.

As Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa pointed out, Sudan set up 20 camps that train terrorist elements and push them into different Arab and African capitals in an attempt to undermine security and stability. We ask ourselves why a poor country like Sudan allocates a considerable part of its modest budget to training Arab and foreign elements and entrusting them with criminal jobs here and there? What would the ruling Sudanese regime gain from this foolishness and what are its motives? Is it the final goal of this regime to take control of the Arab and African states around it? The answer is absolutely no. First of all, the ruling regime in Sudan is keeping up its successive failure on its own soil and against its own people. The demonstrations students organize to express the feelings of the Sudanese people are all over Sudan. This proves the regime's failure to run the country's domestic affairs. Would these leaders, who lack awareness and sensibility, contemplate taking over neighboring African and Arab peoples? This is odd, sad, and certainly ridiculous. This is on the one hand.

On the other hand, the ruling regime in Sudan seems to live the fantasy of having followers and disciples in the Arab region. The devil's advocate Shaykh al-Turabi claims to be sent by Divine Providence to promote Islam and its tolerant teachings in all Arab and African states. What Islam are you talking about? Did Islam call for hatching conspiracies and financing terrorism? Did it call for building ghost houses [reference to detention centers] all over Sudan to throw whoever holds different views within their walls, walls surrounded by death from all sides? Islam disavows all the falsities you try to smear it with; it disavows you till doomsday. Before you set up camps to harbor criminals from Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Somalia, Morocco, and Palestine, did you stop to think that even the harshest political rivals of Arab states did not build camps on their lands to train the opponents of Arab regimes? The Sudanese regime's undertaking of that mission proved beyond doubt that al-Bashir and al-Turabi are working together for other apparatuses and to serve foreign goals and interests that have nothing to do with pan-Arab interests or with promoting the word of Islam, a word falsely used by the Sudanese regime as evidence shows. These camps are designed to fight Arab and African governments and the Muslim people themselves.

The statement the Ethiopian foreign minister read to the OAU meeting yesterday—the statement which exposed the Sudanese regime and its inability to respond to the irrefutable accusations the Ethiopian investigation authorities revealed—has put the Arab and African states before their responsibility, particularly since Sudan will spare no Arab or African neighbor from its threats or the terrorists it exports. The international camps the regime established on its soil—the camps 'Amr Musa exposed yesterday— emphasize the need for a collective confrontation to safeguard the security of the Arab and African people, as well as of the Sudanese people themselves, who will pay dearly for the foolishness of their leaders.

Commentary Discusses Journalists' Congress

NC1209141495 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 9 Sep 95 p 24

[From the "Idea" column by Mustafa Amin]

[FBIS Translated Text] I very much doubt that our government will accept the recommendations of the Third Journalists Congress. This is the will of a nation, not the decision of a professional association, and it is a demand for the freedom of the people, not only of the press.

When the journalists' congress demands that restrictions on freedoms be removed, that journalists enjoy immunity while performing their jobs, that the right to level criticism and expose corruption be granted, that the Press Law not be touched, that the right to publish newspapers be provided, that donations from foreign sides not be accepted [by newspapers], that journalists not be allowed to bring advertisements, and that the Higher Press Council be chaired by a prominent journalist—when the congress demands all this, it is actually demanding independence for the Egyptian press and calling for the departure of the authority that has overseen the press since the revolution. Indeed, it is demanding that the entire Egyptian people be freed from shackles and restrictions. These demands mean terminating corruption and abuse of power, declaring the people as the source of authority, and releasing the people from their imprisonment in a cell of infamous laws. They are the fastest way to abrogate the system of the socialist prosecutor and extraordinary courts, and they effectively abolish martial law, which has been gripping the people's neck for many years.

The government, then, cannot accept all, half, or one-quarter of these demands. It is opposing the drafting of a new Constitution for fear that these principles, which the government views as destructive, may leak into it. These principles would abolish corruption; annihilate the gangs looting, robbing, and abusing power; prevent election rigging; and unleash people's capabilities for criticism, opposition, and fighting against tyranny.

Our rational government is happy with the restrictions it imposed and the shackles it introduced. For the first time in Egypt's history, it has become the sole owner of the major newspapers in the country, appointing chief editors and board chairmen and members and removing them whenever it wants. It appoints the chairman and members of the Higher Press Council. It has monopoly over radio and television, not allowing the picture of an opponent to appear or a word of criticism to be uttered. It turned the media into one whose only mission is to acclaim, applaud, and cheer officials. How can the government give up this luxury? How can it abandon this authority which turned it into the only commander and the sole ruler, who can do whatever he likes without any questions?

Libya

Statement on U.S. Policy on Evicted Palestinians

LD1209215195 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 12 Sep 95

[Statement by "a source at the General People's Committee for Unity"; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] News agencies have been reporting the statement made by the spokesman of the American State Department on the return of Palestinians from the Great Jamahiriyah to their land.

While we are dismayed by the American State Department's flagrant and shameless meddling with a decision made by an independent and sovereign state, particularly when such a decision has been welcomed by the sons of the Palestinian people who live in Libya, we would like, nonetheless, to pinpoint for the American administration the flagrant inconsistencies in its policies, i.e., on the one hand its claims to support the right of the Palestinians to live freely wherever they wish, while on the other hand they earnestly work to bolster the Israelis' stance which rejects the return of Palestinians to their land.

The double-standard policies of the United States with regard to the Palestinian cause and to the return of Palestinians to their land are ignominious: It blesses and helps, financially and morally, the convergence of waves of Jewish immigrants who are forcibly brought in from eastern Europe and the rest of the world to occupied Palestine in order to consolidate the Israeli usurpation there. But at the same time it does not recognize the right of the Palestinian people to freely return to their homeland.

Furthermore, the source at the General People's Committee for Unity insists that the statement by the American State Department spokesman explains the American administration's concern over the return of the sons of the Palestinian people to their land for good: Their return will reveal the measures that have been taken by the American administration to support the Israeli enemy and consolidate the usurpation of Palestine, and the transfer of its original inhabitants to other parts of the world. Furthermore, their return will also expose the falseness of the Oslo Accords, the Gaza-Jericho agreement, and the Washington agreement. Also, their return will expose how America forsakes the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and will compromise the American claims which portray agreements of treachery and capitulation as agreements for the liberation of land and the consolidation of rights. Finally, this historic return of Palestinians will expose the American stance which wants the Palestinian people to be a people of immigrants and displaced persons.

Al-Qadhdhafi: Missiles in Bosnia Not Defending Islam

LD1209160795 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The brother leader of the revolution [al-Qadhdhafi] has given a statement to JANA, in which he said: No sane person will believe that NATO, the traditional enemy of Islam, is using its intercontinental missiles to defend the religion of Muhammad, whose prophetic mission NATO does not recognize, and which it believes to be a liar and an impostor. "The Satanic Verses," whose author was rewarded by the West's greatest leaders, will not be forgotten. They consider Islam to be a constant danger, which must be crushed.

You must not believe that what is taking place has anything to do with Islam. What Islam is it that the Christians are defending? On the one hand, the world is being terrorized to make it submit to NATO. On the other hand, what is taking place is a prelude to the U.S. elections, which require human sacrifices every four years. It is also a warming-up operation in which intercontinental weapons are being tested out to pave the way for a military attack NATO is preparing against the rest of the world. The preliminary shelling for this attack began with Libya in 1986; then Iran, Iraq, Somalia, Grenada, Panama, Haiti, and now Yugoslavia.

It is only naive subservient agents who say that this is for Islam.

Salvation Front Warns of Execution Consequences

MM1209160595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Sep 95 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Libyan Opposition Warns Regime of Consequences of Execution of 'October Uprising Men'"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, AL-HAYAH — The National Front for the Salvation of Libya has condemned the speech that Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi delivered in Bani Walid the day before yesterday, in which he described the men of the "October uprising" as "traitors," vowing to crush those who have rebelled against his regime. The front said that al-Qadhdhafi "is trying to give local and world public opinion the impression that the Warfalah tribes approved of the decision to execute their sons."

The front said in a statement yesterday that "this is not the first time that al-Qadhdhafi has threatened to murder Libya's sons. As always, this threat paves the way for a new massacre of Libya's sons. Al-Qadhdhafi has ordered his Revolutionary Committees to pass death sentences on a number of honorable people, who he accuses of being behind the October 1993 uprising. He also alleged that a tribal meeting demanded that these men be executed. And his organs exerted and continue to exert extensive pressure on their families and tribes with a view to forcing them to accept his decision to execute these men, alleging that the regime's organs are only implementing the wishes of their families and tribes. Then al- Qadhdhafi delivered a speech in Bani Walid in a bid to level at the October men accusations of treason and of acting as agents, hence exerting further pressure on the families and tribes to which these men belong."

The statement added: "The death sentences were passed by al- Qadhdhafi's Revolutionary Committees, not by a court. They were not passed in response to the wish of any tribe or family to which these men belong. They were the outcome of al-Qadhdhafi's spite toward these heroic men. Al-Qadhdhafi's decision to deliver his speech in Bani Walid, center of the Warfalah tribes to which most of the October men belong, was an attempt to give local and world public opinion the impression that the Warfalah tribes had endorsed the execution ruling against their sons."

Concluding, the statement said: "The National Front for the Salvation of Libya once again warns the regime's organs and elements of the consequences of implementing that ugly crime. And it once again urges all the Libyan people's sons to work in unity to confront and thwart al-Qadhdhafi's schemes. It especially urges Libyan tribal chiefs and men not to allow al-Qadhdhafi to use them to implement his schemes." [passage omitted]

Sudan

Student Demonstrations Break Out in Several Cities

NC1209135195 Paris AFP in English 1308 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Sept 12 (AFP)—Violent student demonstrations erupted again in Khartoum and in other cities on Tuesday [12 September] a day after Sudanese police put down protests with live ammunition and tear gas, opposition figures here said.

"Violent demonstrations restarted in downtown Khartoum around noon", local time (1000 GMT), a spokesman for the opposition 'Ummah Party in Cairo said.

The 'Ummah spokesman, who asked not to be named, said street protests also broke out on Tuesday in Wad Madani, southwest of Khartoum, and the Red Sea coastal city of Port Sudan.

"A huge number" of university students and residents joined in the protests in Khartoum in which several cars were smashed, Salah Jalal, a member of the 'Ummah's executive committee, told AFP.

Police fired live ammunition into the air in an attempt to disperse the crowds but "they have refused to fire on the protesters themselves," Jalal said, citing sources within the Sudanese police.

Authorities called out military police from the army to protect "sensitive locations" in the city, such as gas stations and banks, Jalal said.

Earlier Sudanese state radio said the situation in Khartoum had been "fully controlled" after some 3,000 students took to the streets along with residents on Monday protesting an increase in bread prices and calling for the fall of Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir.

Jalal said the main demonstration was dispersed Monday evening but smaller protests continued in some neighborhoods in the capital throughout the night.

The Egyptian daily AL-JUMHURIYAH reported that Sudanese police fired on demonstrators on Monday with live ammunition and tear gas, "leaving eight people unconscious and injuring 15 others."

Dozens of students were arrested in the protests, the Arab daily AL-HAYAH reported.

Students also held demonstrations in Khartoum's sister city Omdurman on the opposite side of the Nile River, lasting four hours, AL-HAYAH said, adding that "gunfire lasting 20 minutes was heard from the city."

The Sudanese daily AL-INQADH AL-WATANI said students on Monday gathered "in a peaceful demonstration in central Khartoum which then turned into subversion and rioting at which point the police responded with tear gas."

The Sudanese press said "a limited number of rioters and saboteurs" joined the protests, "burning five motorcycles, destroying a number of cars and stoning the front of several banks."

Police intervened with tear gas after demonstrators began stoning passers-by, "injuring a number of citizens including a judge," AL- INQADH AL-WATANI said.

Protesters chanted: "The people are hungry, al-Bashir you coward" and "al-Turabi must enter the Kober", referring to a Sudanese prison, AL-JUMHURIYAH said.

The protests came after reports that the price of bread would be increased due to a doubling of wheat prices over the past month, AL- HAYAH said.

Sudanese Finance Minister al-Haj Attalmanan [name as received] announced last Friday that bread prices would rise by 50 percent to keep up with rising wheat prices.

Monday's troubles came two days after students at Khartoum university staged demonstrations protesting the arrest of three students by police. The campus has been closed since Saturday, the 'Ummah statement said.

More than 15 of the students were injured on Saturday when fundamentalist colleagues on the campus attacked them with knives in an attempt to break up the protest, the Egyptian daily AL-AHRAM said.

Sudanese radio blamed Monday's protests on the banned Communist party backed by unnamed "foreign elements".

Khartoum Student Demonstrations Detailed

AB1209180995 London BBC World Service in English 1505 GMT 12 Sep 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It's been another day of demonstrations in the Sudanese capital. The trouble was sparked off by the arrest of three students 10 days ago, and yesterday the clashes between rival student groups spilled over into the streets of Khartoum, provoking a violent intervention by the police. On the line Mick Latter asked our reporter Alfred Taban how many people took part in today's protest.

[Begin recording] [Taban] Well, about 3,000 students or perhaps 4,000 came out into the streets of Khartoum shouting antigovernment slogans.

[Latter] Now, I hear they have been met by the police. Has it been a violent meeting?

[Taban] Oh yes. Since yesterday, the police has been suppressing the students using teargas and charging them, you know, with batons and trying all means to disperse them.

[Latter] Have the students responded? Have they been throwing things at the police, trying to resist the police?

[Taban] Oh yes. They have been resisting the police. They have been throwing stones and generally resisting the police, although today, unlike yesterday, there was no damage on personal vehicles and buildings.

[Latter] Have there been any injuries or seriously wounded people, any deaths, in fact, from these riots?

[Taban] Death has not been reported but there have been several injuries. We don't have a report from the police but I could see that several of the students, and even the citizens who were on the street, have been injured.

[Latter] Now, have the students been joined by members of the public?

[Taban] Not, not very many. Many of the members of the public have been busy trying to get away. You remember yesterday there was a lot of smashing of cars, so most motorists were trying to get out of the city center as fast as they could.

[Latter] Now, these are perhaps the biggest demonstrations since the 1989 military coup. How seriously are the government taking it? Are they seeing it as a potential threat?

[Taban] I think the government has the right to be a bit worried. First of all these demonstrations have been huge in comparison to past demonstrations. Secondly, they come at a time when Khartoum is facing severe problems. We have currently a severe bread shortage so there are a lot of complaints, and generally the economic situation is not good. So if these demonstrations continue there is a likelihood that members of the public will be drawn in. So I think this should be very worrying to the government.

[Latter] We have also heard reports that there has been trouble not simply in Khartoum but also in other areas, for example, on the Red Sea coast, Port Sudan. Do you have any information to that end?

[Taban] I don't but....[pauses] Yes I have heard that in Port Sudan and in Medani, there were also some disturbances, but these have not been confirmed. [end recording]

2 Reported Dead in Khartoum

NC1209152895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1440 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 12 Sep (MENA)—The demonstrations staged in the Sudanese capital today have caused several injuries among the citizens and students. It is said that 17 persons have been injured. However, some sources report that two demonstrators have been killed in the area of (Abu Hamamah) south of the capital Khartoum.

The area of Khartum Bahri, east of the Nile, witnessed limited events, while shops closed their doors for a second day.

Traffic returned to normal in the capital Khartoum, although streets are almost empty of pedestrians. A few cars are seen going here or there.

'Unrest' Allows 300 Prisoners To Escape

AB1309111695 Paris AFP in English
0936 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, Sep 13 (AFP) — Three hundred prisoners seized their chance to escape in the chaos of Sudan's unrest, as they were about to be transferred from a jail in the capital, officials said Wednesday [13 September].

The head of the prison service, General Al Sheikh al-Rayah, told the official agency SUNA that "300 tramps and jobless opened the prison gate and escaped" as they waited in the courtyard of Kober prison.

Demonstrations erupted on Monday in Khartoum among students and spread to two other major towns on Tuesday in protest at rising bread prices. The authorities said two people were killed.

The interior ministry accused "foreign elements" of trying to stir up trouble and said any further unrest would be dealt with severely.

Organization Seeks Release of Detainees

NC1209171595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1630 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Sep (MENA)— The Sudanese Group for the Victims of Torture has appealed to all international organizations operating in the field of human rights and fighting torture to intervene and put pressure on the Sudanese Government to reveal the whereabouts of detainees who were arrested during the ongoing demonstrations, release them, and respect the right to gather and demonstrate.

The group said in a statement today that only a few days after the military government ordered the release of all political prisoners, the authorities reinstated the policy of oppression and torture through confronting peaceful demonstrations by citizens and university students with oppression and violence and wounding and arresting hundreds.

Opposition Figure Demands Punishment for Regime

NC1209160895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1510 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Sep (MENA)— Mahmud al- Mu'tasim, media official in the opposition Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party, has described current demonstrations in Khartoum as a natural result of the accumulated political and economic failure that has marked the work of the ruling regime since 30 June 1989, the date of the salvation revolution.

The opposition figure said in a statement today that the worsening living conditions, the mismanagement of the country's affairs, and the al-Bashir-al-Turabi government's blatant violation of human rights through arrests, torture in ghost houses, and forcing the Islamic Front's policy and control with political decisions were strong reasons that led to the outbreak of demonstrations, in which the citizens fused with university students.

He added that one of the most important causes of these demonstrations was the foolish policy the Sudanese Government has pursued by harboring terrorists, turning the Sudanese territory into extremist camps, and assaulting neighboring states and interfering in their private affairs. He remarked that this policy has led to the imposition of an economic embargo on Sudan.

Al-Mu'tasim linked these worsening conditions to the regime's involvement in the assassination attempt against President Husni Mubarak, the Sudanese people's resentment as a result of their daily suffering, and their eagerness to exercise their freedom and get rid of al-Bashir-al-Turabi rule. He pointed out that these factors helped ignite a revolution in the hearts of the Sudanese.

Al-Mu'tasim cautioned against the consequences of the oppressive policy the Sudanese government is adopting against demonstrators. He called on the United Nations to intervene and refer the case to the UN Security Council to punish the ruling regime, which has been proved to work against its people and neighbors by getting involved in international terrorist operations.

Khartoum 'Willing To Hand Over' Suspect

NC1209134295 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Sep 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Jalal 'Atabani, director of the Sudanese Foreign Ministry's Bilateral Relations Department, has declared that Sudan is seeking to contain the current crisis with Ethiopia and is willing to hand over an individual wanted by the Ethiopian authorities in connection with his role in the attempt on President Husni Mubarak's life on 26 June.

'Atabani added: According to Ethiopian announcements, this person entered Sudan using two forged passports, one Sudanese and one Ethiopian. If he is in the country and we find him, he will be handed over to the Ethiopian authorities.

'Atabani explained that an Ethiopian statement leveling accusations against Sudan was premature, particularly as Sudan was still willing to hold a dialogue and continuing its investigation into an Ethiopian report that three of the suspects in the attempted assassination of the Egyptian president had crossed over into Sudanese territory.

He added: A high-level follow-up committee was formed in accordance with international law. It concluded that one person called Muhammad Siraj entered Sudan with two forged passports. Subsequently, all border checkpoints were supplied with this information in order to pursue and apprehend this person.

'Atabani said the search for Siraj continues and Sudan is willing to hand him over to the Ethiopian authorities immediately after his arrest, in line with the two countries' extradition agreement. He pointed out that the hijackers of an Ethiopian airliner were formerly handed over in line with this agreement.

'Atabani denied that Sudan plans to contravene the agreement and not hand over the wanted person.

Khartoum Reacts to OAU Statement on Mubarak Attempt

EA1209220195 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sudan has described the attempt to condemn it at the meeting of the central organ for the resolution of African disputes as a badly produced play which did not fulfill the minimum requirements of the clever plot, nor the price paid in it. [sentence as heard]

The Foreign Ministry said in a statement read at a news conference this evening by Dr. Ghazi Salah al-din, minister of state at the Foreign Ministry, that what the meeting of the OAU organ for the resolution of disputes resulted in is no more than a new escalation undertaken by the Ethiopian regime in coordination with the Egyptian regime. The statement added that the issue of the attempt to assassinate the president of the Egyptian regime was not in the meeting's agenda, nor was Sudan notified of it.

The sole issue submitted for discussion was the situation in Burundi. He pointed out that the Ethiopian regime, which chaired that meeting, played the role of judge and opponent at the same time, knowing that Sudan is not a member of that organ.

The statement expressed its regret that the first meeting of the central organ for the resolution of disputes has resulted in a new African crisis which contradicts its declared aim.

The Foreign Ministry statement revealed information on one Muhammad Siraj, who is wanted by the Ethiopian regime and who, by the admission of the Ethiopian regime itself, is married to an Ethiopian woman, and has been residing in Ethiopia where he has a real estate business, and holds an Ethiopian passport.

The statement said that this play to make accusations over the attempt to assassinate the president of the Egyptian regime is only one of a series in a conspiracy which will be defeated by the people of Africa through their steadfastness and greatness, whatever the sacrifices.

At the end of the statement, Sudan thanked the friendly states that had stood by it during the meeting, and called on them to persevere in their honorable stands.

Bahrain

Prime Minister Comments on Recent Events, Iraq

JN1209160695 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2026 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, 11 Sep (WAKH)—Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah has said that foreign hands are behind the recent events in Bahrain—events which came as a surprise to everyone.

His highness said the Bahraini people foiled this conspiracy before the government did when they rejected such actions, because this conspiracy was, right from the very beginning, aimed at destruction rather than reform. His highness said that the Bahraini people, thanks to their awareness and loyalty, realized the dimensions of this conspiracy and clearly declared their rejection of these policies that seek to interfere in the affairs of the one family. The Bahraini people, he said, safeguarded all that was built and achieved throughout the past years. He added: What we built and achieved was not done as easily as in other countries; we are a small country with limited resources.

His highness made these remarks today when he received the chief and managing editors of the local daily newspapers. During the meeting, his highness reviewed a number of domestic, regional, and international issues.

Regarding Bahrain's position on Iraq, his highness said: We, in Bahrain, believe that the current phase requires work to strengthen inter-Arab relations and mend fences in order to discuss matters related to our future in the spirit of one team. We are against any schemes to divide Iraq, which is currently going through a difficult stage—a stage which requires search for the means to secure Iraq's stability and return to the Arab fold. He hoped that the United Nations would respond to Iraq's cooperation with the UN arms experts with some flexibility.

Concerning the border dispute with Qatar, his highness said: We sincerely hope this issue will be settled in a brotherly manner so that all would devote themselves to development.

Answering a question on the government's priorities in the next phase and the extent to which the various new bodies are responding to the implementation of the new plans and objectives, his highness the prime minister said he is satisfied with the efforts being made by the new ministers, who provided new blood and did good work during the past short period of time. Their efforts had a positive impact on development and services rendered to citizens, he said.

On the question of activating the role of the Consultative [Shura] Council in state affairs, his highness said: What the Council achieved in a short period of time is evident to all. The chairman and members of this Council are among the best citizens of this country. Their eagerness to develop their country reflected on their high performance. The Council was given some powers in the past and there are plans to increase these powers in order to give it a larger role in serving the society. [passage omitted]

Oman

Qabus Leaves Hospital After Car Accident

JN1209125695 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Thanks be to God, His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, may God protect him, left the Sultan Qabus Hospital in Salalah in good health at noon today after undergoing a medical checkup following yesterday's collision between his majesty's car and a citizen's car on the main street.

Upon his majesty's discharge, the citizens who spent the night in the hospital rushed to the beloved leader's car to congratulate his majesty on his safety, beseeching Almighty God to protect his majesty against any harm, renewing their allegiance to the patron of the victorious march, and pledging to follow in his majesty's enlightened footsteps, which lead Oman to glory.

His majesty waved his hand to his loyal people, thanking them for their noble patriotic feelings and assuring them of his good health and safety.

On this dear occasion, the citizens slaughtered animals at the gate of the hospital as in expression of their joy at his majesty's safety. May God protect His Majesty the Sultan from all harm and keep him an asset and an inspiring leader for the people and homeland. Praise be to God.

Saudi Arabia

Japan's Murayama Arrives for Mideast Tour

OW1209143195 Tokyo KYODO in English 1410 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Sept. 12 KYODO — Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama arrived in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday [12 September] evening for a seven-day tour that will also take him to Egypt, Syria, Israel and Jordan to confer with local leaders on bilateral relations and the Middle East peace process.

As the oil-rich Middle East is Japan's key energy supplier, the premier's first task is to establish sound ties with the region in order to secure a long-term and stable supply of oil.

But Murayama's journey is also intended to express Tokyo's determination to commit itself more to helping achieve peace and stability in the volatile region, Foreign Ministry officials said.

An official said recently that Murayama will urge each country to make further efforts to achieve a durable peace in the region, and will express his support for the peace process now under way, which is recognized as crucial to world stability.

In addition, Murayama will brief regional leaders on Tokyo's plan to send troops to join a UN peacekeeping mission in the Israeli-held Golan Heights. The Japanese troops will take over transport duties from a Canadian contingent in the UN Disengagement Observer Force.

Murayama is scheduled to meet Saudi Arabian King Fahd on Wednesday and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on Thursday.

The Japanese premier will arrive in Syria on Saturday and meet President Hafiz al-Asad. He will move on to Israel that night and meet prime minister Yitzhaq Rabin on Sunday.

On Monday, Murayama is to fly to Gaza, which was brought under palestinian self-rule last year, to meet Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leader Yasir 'Arafat.

Later Monday, the prime minister will go to Jordan to meet king Husayn, before leaving for Japan that night. He will arrive home next Tuesday.

Murayama will be the first Japanese prime minister to visit Syria and Israel. In October 1990, then prime minister Toshiki Kaifu visited Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Murayama told reporters traveling with him on a government airplane heading for Riyadh that the current tour is aimed at establishing a foundation upon which close ties between Japan and the Middle East region will be constructed.

He also said that solving pending issues, such as the creation of a peace between Syria and Israel, will bring peace to the entire Middle East region, adding that, "if Japan has a role to play, we want to fulfill it adequately."

After the plane is refueled in Riyadh, the prime minister will leave for Jeddah, on the Red Sea, where he will meet the Saudi king.

Pledges Positive Role in Mideast

*OW1309043895 Tokyo KYODO in English
0349 GMT 13 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Sept. 13 KYODO — Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama said late Tuesday [12 September] that Japan will play a "positive and constructive" role for peace and stability in the Middle East. Murayama, who is visiting the region on a seven-day tour, made the statement in a meeting with Saudi Arabian King Fahd in Jiddah on the coast of the Red Sea.

King Fahd said the framework for peace in the Mideast is already in place, since "neither the Arabs nor Israel want war," according to Japanese officials accompanying Murayama. The king also said that all Arab countries will eventually recognize Israel, the officials said. Currently, only three countries in the Arab League — Egypt, Jordan and the Comoros, an Islamic republic in Africa — recognize Israel. The king, however, expressed strong anxiety about Iraq, which invaded Kuwait in 1990, and Iran which "is expanding in military terms."

Murayama called on Saudi Arabia to "continue bilateral cooperation" with Arabian Oil Co., Japan's largest oil producer, after 2000 when the drilling rights of the company expire under the current contract. The king told the premier that Saudi Arabia will continue helping the company in all aspects and told him "not to worry" about it, the officials told reporters.

King Fahd stressed that Tokyo and Riyadh need to strengthen economic relations to deepen their friendship, and called on Murayama to set up a joint oil refining company.

Murayama said he hopes for a visit to Japan by the king and his son Prince 'Abdallah, who is the first deputy prime minister, and also announced that Japan will invite more than 1,000 trainees and students from the Middle East over the next five years.

The meeting was held late Tuesday night, soon after Murayama arrived in Jiddah, advancing the original timetable set for Wednesday afternoon. Saudi Arabian Government sources said the bringing forward of the meeting shows how much importance Saudi Arabia attaches to Japan.

During his Mideastern tour, Murayama will also visit Egypt, Syria, Israel and Jordan to confer with leaders on bilateral relations and the peace process in the region.

Praises Saudi International Role

*LD1109151995 Riyadh SPA in English
1257 GMT 11 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Sept 11, SPA — Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama has commended the important role being played by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the leadership of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz on regional and international arenas.

In a statement to the Arabic language newspaper 'AL-RIYADH' published today, he said the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under King Fahd's wise leadership and the kingdom being the leader of the Islamic world and the Gulf Cooperation Council, had been playing an important role in boosting peace and stability in the Middle East region and the Arabian Gulf region as well as all over the world.

He added he was looking forward to his official visit to the kingdom, which begins tomorrow, to confer with Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the deputy premier and commander of the national guard, to convey to them Japan's desire to contribute positively to the Middle East peace process and the Arabian Gulf region.

Murayama affirmed that his visit to Saudi Arabia came as an expression of Japan's attention towards establishment of multi-faceted and close relations with the kingdom.

He said the importance of his upcoming Middle East tour came due to the significance of the region in preserving peace and stability of the international community. 'The Middle East region presents a special importance to Japan to ensure stable resources of energy on a long-term basis,' he added.

The importance of his tour of the region, he said did not depend alone on economic factors, but it encompasses attention of Japan to play an international role through its contribution in accomplishing peace and stability in the Middle East.

Foreign Ministry Clarifies Visit of Iraqi Minister

LD0909220995 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
2130 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 9 Sep (SPA) — In commenting on a report put out today by the French news agency regarding the visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by the Iraqi Awqaf Minister 'Abd al- Mun'i Salih, a Foreign Ministry source said that the visit of the Iraqi Awqaf minister falls within the framework of the meeting of the Executive Council of the Awqaf ministers, which is under the umbrella of the OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference] whose headquarters is in Jeddah and whose membership includes all Islamic states. The source added that this meeting will take place within the framework of the OIC and has no connection with the host country.

King Chairs Council Meeting, Supports Bosnia Talks

LD1109193395 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1830 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 11 Sep (SPA) — Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz today chaired a Council of Ministers meeting in Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah. The king urged the Islamic states that are members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] to take advantage of the possibilities offered by the organization through numerous channels such as ad hoc committees, sectorial organs, Islamic solidarity institutions, and standing commissions. Marking the 25th OIC anniversary, King Fahd said that these organs, committees, and institutions give a clear idea of the comprehensive and efficient nature of the call for Islamic solidarity, which should cover all aspects of religious and daily life. [passage omitted]

The council examined the most important Arab, Islamic, and international developments, and in this respect the king reaffirmed that inter-Arab solidarity is the best way to preserve the rights of the Arab nation, and to face up to the challenges and dangers laying in wait for it.

The king also welcomed the outcome of various meetings, and also the results of the Geneva talks on Bosnia, with the participation of the foreign ministers of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which legitimized the existence of Bosnia-Herzegovina. King Fahd reiterated that Saudi Arabia, its government, and people stand at the side of their Muslim brothers in Bosnia, both morally and materially. He stressed that the kingdom will continue to do everything possible, through all international organs, to lift the ordeal of the Muslims in Bosnia so they can enjoy security, peace, and stability. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Dollar-Riyal Exchange Rate Provokes Price Drop

London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 9 Sep 95 p 9 in Arabic

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Travelers arriving from the Yemeni capital Sanaa claim the prices on commodities and imported and domestic foodstuffs have seen a dramatic drop in the past week, as much as 100 percent on some items such as cooking oils, sugar and building materials; thus, the price of a tin of cooking oil has dropped to 300 Yemeni riyals while the price of a 50kg bag of sugar came down to 1300 riyals.

The Yemeni ministry of supply and trade has asked the dealers and producers to lower prices on their commodities corresponding to the reduction seen in the price of the American dollar and other foreign currencies on the Yemeni market. It assured them that the governments will be working to stabilize the exchange rates in an attempt to allay fears of a new increase in the price of the dollar.

While a number of Yemenis who met in London with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT expressed the view that the recent improvement in the value of the Yemeni riyal is a real phenomenon, they also confirmed the desire of the Yemeni government to put limits on the state of chaos and instability now witnessed by the Yemeni markets. Others expressed anxiety about the lack of clear vision and the paucity of detailed information relative to this issue.

One Yemeni businessman, who asked not to be named, said that he believes that the government has confidence in the intermediate and long-term measures it is taking; however, in the short run, regarding what has happened in recent weeks, the matter is somewhat obscure and needs more clarification.

The value of the American dollar declined in the first part of July from approximately 160 riyals per dollar to only 70 riyals in two weeks time. Government sources believe that the improvement achieved by the Yemeni currency is due to a number of factors, chief among which is the improvement in Saudi-Yemeni relations and the accompanying positive developments; this, in addition to steps taken by the Yemeni central bank to support the economic, financial and administrative reform program upon which the government had embarked early last April.

In addition to decisions regarding the oversight of public expenditures and the limiting of the budget deficit, the Yemeni government decided to raise interest rates on deposits and savings accounts; it also raised the interest on loans and credit instruments in order to limit the cash flow and inflation which the country has witnessed over the past two years.

With regard to currency trading on the exchange markets, the government imposed strict measures upon traders and encouraged competition among commercial banks by permitting them to buy and sell the American dollar and other foreign currencies at the prevailing market price which was no longer very far from the official exchange rate of 50 riyals per dollar. This is the price at which government sources hope the official exchange market will finally settle.

Defense Minister, Others Sworn In Before Saddam

JN1309054695 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In the presence of leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, fighter General Sultan Hashim Ahmad took the constitutional oath on his assumption of the post of defense minister. 'Adnan 'Abd-al-Majid Jasim, minister of industry and minerals; and General 'Abd-al-Jawad Dhannun, who was appointed deputy to the chief of the Presidential Court, also took the constitutional oath.

The swearing-in ceremony was attended by Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, chief of the Presidential Court.

Commission Supervising Referendum Approves Forms

JN1209153395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1210 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 12 Sep (INA) — 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council and head of the commission supervising the public referendum on the post of the president of the republic, today chaired a meeting for the commission.

The commission reviewed plans to prepare statistical lists for those who are entitled to take part in the referendum from all governorates of Iraq in accordance with the conditions set by the public referendum law.

The commission approved the printed forms of the referendum. It also discussed the best ways to enable citizens to express their views in absolute freedom at the polling centers and to show the democratic experiment in the best way possible.

Paper Notes 'New Stage' of 'Democratic Practice'

JN1109172095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 11 Sep (INA) — The AL-THAWRAH newspaper says Iraq is today on the threshold of a new stage of domestic political action that would allow the Iraqi people to express their views in accordance with the Constitution and the rule of law.

In an article today under the headline "An Advanced Stage of Democratic Practice," AL-THAWRAH, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: The most significant aspect of the decrees issued by the Revolution Command Council amending the Constitution to hold a popular referendum on the post of the president is the circumstance under which they were issued. In spite of the new threats facing Iraq, the leadership did not pay attention to the serious and hard circumstance and decided to go ahead and consolidate the internal structure of the Iraqi house.

The paper adds that moving from the formula of revolutionary legitimacy to constitutional legitimacy has been on the mind of the leadership for a decade. The features of this were clear in the National Assembly elections in 1980. The Iranian aggression stopped the leadership's efforts to expand democratic practice in response to the requirements for preserving Iraq's entire entity.

The paper points out the leadership's steps after the end of the aggression to enhance democratic practice by drafting a new constitution and the Parties and Press Law. This was accompanied by broad popular and party debates to move firmly to the stage of democratic action.

The paper asserts that the 30-state aggression and the blockade imposed against Iraq have obstructed Iraq's efforts in this direction. However, the leadership noticed this hostile objective so it took the new decisions to counter it.

Saddam Said Guarantee for 'Prosperous Iraq'

JN1209201195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 12 Sep (INA)— An Iraqi newspaper has emphasized that the U.S. administration's aggression against Iraq aims to prevent Iraq from expressing its genuine policy of openness and its democratic relationship with the people.

AL-QADISIYAH newspaper, in an article published today under the headline "A Look at Constitutional Amendments; the Sole Option," said the Americans, who have been pursuing a malicious objective in an extraordinary situation, thought this might lead to an extraordinary action which would help them change the illusionary map into a reality on the ground. However, the calculations of those who wrote the conspiratorial scenario against Iraq are different from reality and facts.

The paper added that the fair observer certainly notices that the main part of the current U.S. anti-Iraq campaign was employed to serve attempts to undermine the strong relations between the leadership [and the people] and prevent the revolution from expressing its popular and democratic identity in order to have a pretext for casting doubt about the leadership's credibility in its desire to follow the democratic march.

The newspaper said: Amid the changes Iraq is witnessing, history will surely record and make its judgment. History, while registering the great decision to introduce the constitutional amendments, will not ignore that this decision came as a surprise to those who wagered on the assumption that Iraq would be drowned by heavy seas, and that it came against the expectations of the suspicious parties which wanted to hide the true picture of the Iraqis and their great ability to deal with every chapter of the conspiracy with the appropriate measures and steps that surprise the enemy and turn his calculations upside down, and then throw them where they belong.

The newspaper said the Americans had the biggest surprise. They thought that through further pressures and conspiracies they could besiege Iraq and its leadership with difficult circumstances that would lead to extraordinary or convulsive measures that would conflict in one way or another with the true beliefs that formed the framework of the revolution's policy in dealing with the people, based on democratic interaction between the leadership and the popular base and its positive results, which was one of the main features of 17-30 July 1968 revolution.

The newspaper discussed the requirements of the confrontation with the United States and its allies that Iraq has waged, and continues to wage. It said: Pure logic calls for embarking on measures that help overcome the extraordinary situation and its ramifications. However, because the experiment has a cultural and logical dimension which interacts with the principles derived from the spirit and conscience of the people and which gives priority to their interests, the Iraqi leadership has to follow a different method of dealing with this extraordinary situation. This method would aim to strengthen the domestic position to cope with the great responsibilities of confronting conspiracies through patience, awareness, faith and a clear ideology which will prevent confusion and blurred vision.

AL-QADISIYAH went on to say: They wanted Iraq to live the extraordinary option, but the leadership replied with the democratic option, interaction with the masses, and opening the road for these masses to be—based on their creative talents—the effective and main element in the confrontation with the enemy camp.

Concluding its article, AL-QADISIYAH said: The most famous measure adopted by the revolution, which constituted a shock to the Americans and their allies, was the one on administering the relationship with the people and providing opportunities for all to play their expected role, and assisting some people to follow the right path through humanitarian deeds and principled adherence to the formulas that are considered the approach which cannot be obstructed and whose priorities cannot be tampered with. The way to preserve our identity and democratic policy, unity, and safety of our country is through adhering to the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, which is the guarantee for the united and prosperous Iraq.

Saddam Seen Building 'Democratic Civil Society'

JN1309100595 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0620 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 13 Sep (INA)—AL-THAWRAH emphasizes that the Iraqi leadership, which has wagered only on the steadfastness of its people and nation, is now convinced that the circumstances are appropriate for the Iraqi people to practice real democracy in which they will take great pride.

In an article published here today, AL-THAWRAH, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says the people's vote for their leader Saddam Husayn as a president of the republic is their guarantee to unity, progress, and stability.

It adds that after the referendum, President Saddam Husayn will lay down the solid and balanced basis for a democratic civil society that will be a strong foundation for national and pan-Arab progress. Iraq and the Arab homeland are witnessing the first political pluralism that serves the nation's objectives, values, and principles, which will be followed by laws that safeguard and guarantee the continuation of the first Arab democratic experience, whose credibility will command the respect of the world.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that choosing President Saddam Husayn as president of the republic is the basis on which the Iraqis will build a new life after the siege is lifted—life that will shine on those who are around them because this choice is the symbol of stability and progress for Iraq and the Arab homeland, and will be a guarantee for the courageous Iraqi people, since it will enable them to reap the fruits of their steadfastness and bravery. It is also a guarantee for the international economic powers when they find that their interests are secured in a stable Iraq which Saddam Husayn will lead to the highest levels of economic and social progress.

The newspaper concludes by saying that the Iraqi leadership, which has confidence in its people, is now convinced that the Iraqi people's experience makes them eligible for direct participation in decisionmaking on internal and external affairs, and on the national and pan-Arab levels.

Ekeus Comments on Baghdad's Biological Weapons

BR1109144995 Paris LE MONDE in French 11 Sep 95 p 4

[Report on interview with Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission for the disarmament of Iraq, by Afsane Bassir Pour in New York on 8 September: "UN Security Council Extends Sanctions Against Iraq"]

[FBIS Translated Text] New York (United Nations) — Speaking in an interview with LE MONDE on Friday, 8 September, Sweden's Rolf Ekeus, leading the UN Special Commission [UNSCOM] in charge of disarming Iraq, said that he was very surprised by the effect that Baghdad's recent revelations regarding biological weapons had had on the members of the Security Council: "For some, the new information is a perfect excuse for them to harden their position against Iraq. Others see it as the beginning of the end for the oil embargo. Personally I do not agree with either analysis."

Stressing the need for Baghdad's "full and complete" cooperation with UNSCOM, Mr. Ekeus said: "If the Iraqi authorities cannot see the light at the end of the tunnel then they could well suddenly refuse to cooperate with us or even throw our inspectors out. The commission is currently making significant progress, like a smoothly running machine. If there is no more international inspection, then God knows what nasty surprise they could have in store for us."

Speaking of his meeting with one of Saddam Husayn's three sons-in-law, General Husayn Kamil Hasan, who has been in hiding in Amman, Jordan, since 8 August, Mr. Ekeus said that his defection had had a "decisive effect" for the Special Commission: "I can even go as far as to say that we created the conditions for this defection to take place since the dispute between him and Uday, one of Saddam Husayn's two sons, was in fact over the level of cooperation with the United Nations."

A Burning Issue

Mr. Ekeus found the behavior of General Hasan quite different from what he had seen in the past: "It is as if I was seeing a different man. As he was a key player in the Iraqi arms industry I met with him on many occasions in Baghdad where he received me arrogantly, his boots up on the negotiating table. This time, in Amman, I shook the hand of a polite and humble man."

With regard to the million-plus pages of documents recently acquired by the UNSCOM, Mr. Ekeus said that the most interesting information will be contained in a biannual report scheduled for publication on 11 October. This report, he stressed, will "in no way be definitive." In his opinion, the burning issue is still "whether or not the biological weapons have been destroyed." Baghdad says they have been but refuses to prove it as Saudi Arabia in particular is demanding.

"Strange Experiments"

Why are the Iraqi authorities stubbornly holding out on certain information? Mr. Ekeus replied: "For several reasons. First, they must be dreaming of one day rebuilding their weapons capacity. Second, they have performed a series of strange experiments which, if they ever came to light, would have devastating political consequences." In his opinion, Baghdad was testing weapons that could seriously wound without killing because "it is more expensive for the enemy to have to tend its wounded than to bury its dead." If he is to believed, Iraqi scientists were also trying to develop biological agents "that would only kill foreigners." The UNSCOM head said that there were biological agents that would not affect certain races which had developed antibodies, but which could affect others..."

Radio Views Powell's Statements on Nuclear Weapons

JN1209151695 Baghdad Mother of Battles Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Sep 95

[From the "News Reports" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Arab Brothers: Finally, the U.S. Administration had to acknowledge what it did not want people to know for the past four and a half years; that is, since the start of the Atlantic-Zionist military aggression against Iraq and until yesterday.

Yesterday, Colin Powell, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff during the military aggression against Iraq, announced that the U.S. Administration was about to use nuclear weapons against Iraq.

Such a statement did not come as a surprise to us because we, like other peoples of the world, know the extent of the United States' barbarism and brutality, which it demonstrated in its history of hostility against the peoples and in its wars of annihilation against them, starting with the bombs of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, to the war of annihilation it has been waging for five years now through starvation and siege against our people in Iraq, and its criminal atrocities in Vietnam, Cambodia, Korea, and other southeast Asian, African, and Latin American countries.

The only aspect that surprised us in what Colin Powell has acknowledged is that the U.S. Administration should confess that it wanted to annihilate our people in Iraq, after it kept silent over this fact for the past five years. Why are we surprised here? Because this confession is another confirmation of the shame of the United States and everyone who participated in the aggression against Iraq, and because the United States has already said that it used all the mighty military arsenal it possessed, which was intended for use against the Eastern bloc, against a developing Arab country, Iraq.

The U.S. statement that the United States was about to use nuclear weapons, but did not use them, also aims to cover the fact that the U.S. Administration is practically exercising a war of annihilation by besieging Iraq and blocking all means of survival from reaching our people in Iraq, including food, medicine, and baby milk; and including the bolt, the pencil, the eraser, paper, and ink.

How should we describe the death of approximately one and a half million Iraqis during the continuing years of the siege? Mass murder or annihilation of the human race? The number of victims of this unprecedented siege exceeds the number of victims of more than 10 nuclear bombs of the type which the United States dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Following all that, is it not shameful to maintain the embargo when there are some close neighbors who could break it and stop the war of mass annihilation exercised by the United States in a sadistic fashion against 20 million Arab and Muslim people in Arab Iraq.

Paper Urges Moscow To 'Break Away' From Embargo

JN1209093095 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0745 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 12 Sep (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ said it hopes the Moscow administration will make a serious move to break away from embargo measures, to which Washington insists on chaining Iraq in order to serve the U.S.-Zionist strategy in the region.

In an article today, the paper says: Such a step will show that Russia rejects U.S. pressure. The United States recently attempted to prevent Moscow from taking such a measure, which would also defend Russia's economic interests and the independence of its decisionmaking.

The paper notes remarks made by Alex Metrvanov [name as transliterated], vice chairman of the World Affairs Committee at the Russian parliament, who said that his committee drafted two motions suggesting that the Russian Federation not abide by the sanctions regimes imposed on Iraq and Libya, and stressing that in accordance with Article 50 of the UN Charter, it is permissible not to comply with the sanctions resolutions issued by the UN Security Council. Article 50 allows the states that are harmed by the sanctions imposed on other states not to comply with the sanctions measures.

An academic study published in Moscow recently reported that Russia lost some $50 billion because of its compliance with the sanctions imposed on Iraq, in addition to the Iraqi debt due Russia.

Metrvanov did not rule out the possibility that the two motions will be presented for discussion in the current Duma session to obtain a law on Russia's noncompliance with the sanctions regime imposed on Iraq and Libya.

It is worth recalling that during the recent spring term, the Russian parliament proposed a bill to pull out of the sanctions regime imposed on Iraq in accordance with Article 50. Almost all the Duma members voted in favor of the motion except the fanatical Jewish deputies and the Zionist members who have links to Israel. However, the bill was not binding to the Kremlin.

BABIL Urges France To Defend Economic Interests

JN0909095595 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0731 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 9 Sep (INA)—The newspaper BABIL has urged France to adopt a firm stand in defense of its economic interests with Iraq.

The paper says in article here today that the time has come for France and other states to take their major economic interests with Iraq into consideration and to adopt a political decision that is indeed more legitimate than any other consideration.

The paper adds: A French stand is required because France has been and continues to be a leading UN Security Council member state that calls for the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 through a joint plan with Russia. This plan is also supported by China.

The paper believes that French interests with Iraq, especially the economic interests, have been directly threatened because of the U.S. position at the UN Security Council. The harm done to those interests has been so considerable that the French economy has been affected in view of the extensive economic and trade relations that existed before the 30-state aggression and the blockade imposed after the aggression.

The paper stresses that economic interests play an important role in revealing the firmness of a country's stand toward a particular issue.

Talks in Tehran To Reestablish Normal Relations

MS1209092895 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 12 Sep 95 p 15

[Report by Gerald Butt: "Iraqis Look for Support From Former Enemy Iran"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Senior Iraqi and Iranian officials were holding talks in Tehran last night aimed at re-establishing normal relations.

The meeting came as Iraq was making friendly overtures to other Middle Eastern states, including Jordan and Saudi Arabia, to end its regional isolation.

The main topics of discussion in Tehran continue to be the exchange of prisoners-of-war and border issues.

But the seven years of talks have achieved little and have been subject to long breaks, particularly after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990 and the Gulf War.

Diplomats doubt whether the latest talks will allow the two countries to sink all their differences. But the significance of the meetings, from Iraq's point of view, is that another step has been taken towards rebuilding diplomatic links in the region.

Since two of Saddam's top aides and their wives — both daughters of the president — defected to Jordan last month, the Baghdad regime has seemed more vulnerable than ever.

Ironically, the welcome which the defections were given in the West and the hopes expressed there that the Iraqi leader's days were numbered have worked to his advantage.

Iran has denounced what it regards as an American-led plot to install a Western-backed regime in Iraq. As a result, diplomats say, the Iranian government decided to accept Baghdad's request to resume their dialogue.

Syria, Saddam's greatest Arab enemy, and Egypt share Iran's concerns about outside interference in Iraq.

Even King Husayn of Jordan, who said the time has come for a change in Baghdad, has been forced to backtrack. When Saddam had been denounced by the king, he surprised observers by refraining from verbal retaliation.

King Husayn, facing accusations at home and abroad that he was involved in Western manoeuvring to oust Saddam, was forced to maintain contacts with the Iraqi regime.

Over the weekend, the Jordanian oil minister visited Baghdad and assured the leadership there that his country would not be heeding Western demands to cut oil imports from Iraq. The minister declared that relations between Jordan and Iraq were good and "completely normal".

In a further attempt at the weekend to rebuild bridges, the Iraqi government sent its religious affairs minister to Saudi Arabia to attend a conference. He was the first senior Iraqi to visit the kingdom since the gulf war.

AL-SHA'B Claims Defector Kamil Visits Israel

NC1209125195 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Sep 95 pp 1, 8

[Report by Mahmud Bakri]

[FBIS Translated Text] Information says that the former Iraqi industry minister, General Husayn Kamil, who recently defected to Jordan, paid a secret 10-hour visit to Israel last week. During his visit, on which several aides accompanied him, he met Israeli and U.S. officials. Some U.S. officials preferred to meet him away from the Jordanian capital because Jordanian officials insist on participating in any talks with the defecting Iraqi minister. Jordan insists on being an equal partner with the U.S. Administration regarding any planning or arrangements against Iraq.

The information says that during his visit Gen. Husayn Kamil met Israeli Foreign Ministry officials, staff of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's office, and members of Mosad, Shin Bet, and the military intelligence. But he did not meet Prime Minister Rabin or any prominent Israeli personality. The report explains that the reason for the trip was the U.S. Administration's preferring a meeting in Israel, which approved the U.S. request. The agenda prepared for Gen. Husayn Kamil was full and the talks dealt with numerous basic issues, primarily the domestic situation of the Iraqi regime. The talks focused on the sources of power Saddam Husayn and his son 'Udayy enjoy and the nature of Iraq's foreign relations and alliances.

The Israeli officials asked Gen. Husayn Kamil to reveal the types of contacts held between Iraq and Arab countries, primarily Egypt, Libya, and Morocco. During the talks the Israelis held a full review and expressed their readiness to participate in implementing any security plan, to provide the necessary funds, and facilitate his contacts with Iraqi figures abroad. The Israelis also expressed readiness to make Israel a primary center for holding these meetings. In return they asked Gen. Kamil to provide them with a detailed map showing Iraqi military installations, particularly those housing weapons of mass destruction. The Israelis specified 40 Iraqi military positions that they consider still pose a danger to Israel's security and said that their information on these positions is incomplete. The information indicates that Gen. Husayn Kamil refused the Israeli offer and hinted at the possibility of future contacts within the framework of discussing ways of striking this deal but as part of other offers.

The information confirms that Gen. Husayn Kamil's secret visit to Israel will be followed by visits to other regional countries. The talks will focus on discussing frameworks for regional cooperation to overthrow Saddam Husayn's regime. The overthrow of the Iraqi regime is considered to be the CIA's basic goal, as Saddam Husayn's overthrow would mean the disappearance of the Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

Development Leading to Defections Viewed

95LH0266A Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 21 Aug 95 pp 28-29

[Report by Dr. Su'ad al-Sabah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last June, the Iraqi al-Dulaym tribes rebelled against the authority in Baghdad and entered a bloody confrontation with it. The repercussions of this confrontation are still reverberating. According to some reports, some active members of these tribes, which are influential in Iraqi Sunni circles, have recently taken refuge in Syria. They have established an opposition organization and concluded an alliance with leaders of the Iranian-supported Shiite opposition. The al-Dulaym tribes' split with the authority and the previous tension between the regime and other Sunni tribes, led by al-Juburi tribe, have deprived the Iraqi regime of one of its most important pillars for consolidating its authority in a country consisting of different nationalities with conflicting interests. The regime has depended on the support of the central tribes and clans. Their members have constituted the backbone of the state's sensitive institutions, particularly the armed forces with their various branches and the security and intelligence services.

This gradual decrease in loyalty to the ruling Ba'thist regime, after suspicion replaced confidence in the existing alliance between the authority and the central tribes, had only one meaning: increasing the authority's isolation. The regime concentrated power and hegemony in the Tikrit tribe, which became its basis and throbbing heart. It concentrated power among the president's closest relatives, such as brothers, sons, cousins, and son-in-laws, but the dilapidating virus that hit the regime's outer shell was bound to penetrate to the bone, after competition emerged and personal interests destroyed family ties. The sons formed a separate bloc. They thought that their uncles and the other relatives were only after power and that the only way to deter them was by the sword. Thus, the relatives began falling from their positions one after the other—Irshad Yasin, the president's son-in-law, and Watban al-Hasan, the president's half brother. Based on the history of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime, which has been known for its cruelty and the absence of any compassion and respect for blood ties, the dismissal from a position and even imprisonment were considered a blessing. Perhaps the world has not forgotten how Saddam Husayn got rid of 'Adnan Khayrallah Talfah, his cousin and brother-in-law, by arranging his death in an airplane crash.

An exciting development has recently taken place in Iraq. Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil, the man primarily responsible for the Iraqi non-conventional weapons' programs, together with his brother Saddam, their wives, the president's daughters Raghad and Rana, and a number of officers and escorts, have defected to Jordan. This development offers another solid proof that the ruling regime in Baghdad is collapsing.

Several reasons have been given for the defection. Some people think that the defectors sensed that their lives would be in danger if they stayed in Baghdad. Others think that they realized that the president intended to launch another foreign adventure because he had lost hope that the United Nations would change its position on economic sanctions. So they defected to save themselves from an inevitable new Iraqi suicidal confrontation with the international community. Perhaps there is some truth in both possibilities, but what is evident and most important is that the defection of Iraqi figures of such importance, influence, and closeness to the center of power—even if we disregard the fact that the president's daughters were among the defectors—provides the strongest indication that the ship of the Ba'thist rule is being lashed by storms, which will inevitably sink it soon.

Anti-Saddam Leaflets, Slogans Seen in Baghdad

NC1209154795 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In the past two days, Baghdad and a number of other Iraqi cities were the scene of a large scale campaign in which leaflets and political statements were distributed calling on citizens to boycott the sham referendum which Saddam Husayn intends to hold on 10 November to consolidate his rule and maintain his authority indefinitely.

People arriving in Amman from Iraq say that large-size slogans saying no to Saddam, no to dictatorship, and yes to democracy were seen in various parts of Baghdad on Saturday. The same travelers added that in the past two days security and intelligence personnel were busy removing and wiping out these slogans from the walls of buildings. In the meantime, the regime has deployed units wearing civilian clothes to guard government buildings and premises from people writing anti-Saddam graffiti on their walls and fronts.

In another development, security agencies have arrested a number of owners of printing and copying shops in al-Ramadi and accused them of printing and copying statements and leaflets calling for a boycott of Saddam's referendum and demanding the right of the Iraqi people to choose their real representatives. Representatives from al-Anbar Governorate who are members of the so-called National Assembly have refused to attend the assembly's session, chaired by Saddam's deputy, to nominate Saddam for the presidency.

SAIRI Issues Statement on Referendum Decision

JN1209191295 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1315 GMT 12 Sep 95

[Statement issued by SAIRI on 11 September "dispatched by our sources in the Islamic Republic of Iran"—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dictator Saddam has again performed an exposed maneuver in front of the local and foreign public opinions, now that he has lost his bargaining chips and the legitimate cause of his remaining in power. This maneuver is represented by a clear political drama aimed at misinforming the world public opinion by claiming that he will be holding an alleged popular referendum on his presidential post.

Overnight, the regime, represented by the Revolution Command Council [RCC], carried out formal amendments to the constitution, nominated the RCC chairman for the post of the president of the republic, and invited the so-called National Assembly to approve Saddam's nomination and to point out that the aim of all this is to renew allegiance to the necessary, irreplaceable leader. Thus, the Iraqi people will be obliged to elect him, otherwise they will face killing, execution, and expulsion.

This measure, while demonstrating the weakness of the regime, which is hiding behind the slogans of elections, proves that Saddam and his regime are holding in contempt all values, laws, and conventions, especially their contempt of the people and their fate. This measure also demonstrates the insistence of Saddam and his regime on continuing the path of dictatorship and repression and the imposition of their views and stands on the people. These facts are corroborated by the following points:

1. This decision was made in complete absence of the constitutional establishments that are elected by the people. This decision was passed by the so called RCC, which holds all powers, including the power to nominate the president of the republic. Neither the president himself nor anyone else has the authority to nominate himself for this office. This RCC is imposed on the people by the fire and sword and has been proved to be a plaything in Saddam's hand and is behaving as though Saddam is the undisputed master of the Iraqi people.

2. The justifications that have been mentioned to hold this formal and ineffectual referendum are a farce. They demonstrate another mockery and a crisis in the regime. The justification for this decision is the flight of Saddam's son-in-law Husayn Kamil. All the previous events which clearly demonstrated the Iraqi people's rejection of this brutal dictatorship were not enough to force the regime to resort to the people's vote. It is as though the regime's credibility was shaken only because his two sons-in-law and two daughters fled from Iraq.

3. All the Iraqi people's ethnic groups, sectors, and denominations have categorically voted to condemn Saddam and reject this regime. Indeed, the people fought for their deliverance with all the power at their disposal. The regime has never been able to silence the people even when it used against them chemical weapons, surface-to-surface missiles, tanks and long-range artillery, and war planes, and when it resorted to draining the marshlands, killing civilians, and launching genocide, burying people in mass graves. This is the best evidence of the people's rejection and the best way of voting chosen by the people after the regime closed all doors of free voting in their face.

4. Forgery will never do the regime any good neither on the domestic level, because the people know the truth, nor abroad, because the truth was revealed through many incidents, documents, and the regime's aggressive methods against its neighbors. No public referendum can be acceptable with the existence of execution laws, terrorist agencies, suppressive organs, kangaroo courts, and wide powers to the security agencies. These agencies may kill, pursue, or terrorize anyone and seize the funds of the people, leaving them homeless. This is the prevalent situation in Iraq.

5. The nature of the regime's makeup produced Saddam's dictatorship. Saddam is above any law or institution in Iraq. Nothing can restrain him, and his whims always have the upper hand. There is practically no dissenting voice to his will and wishes. The penalty for this is death and imprisonment. Therefore, there is no real meaning to any election measure in light of the presence of a dictator like Saddam.

6. The amendment to the Constitution is only partial. It was introduced for political purposes that serve Sad-

dam's survival. This amendment, as we said, is also a collective reaction to the state of internal deterioration and the international sanctions. The regime is accused internationally of human rights violations and the nonexistence of political freedom.

This was a review of the background to the recent measure of the Saddam regime. In order to defend the Iraqi people's political, humanitarian, and cultural rights, which are violated under the 'Aflaqite authority; and to clarify matters to our people and to public opinion abroad, we emphasize the following points:

A. Creating real constitutional institutions which are elected by the Iraqi people to preserve the rights of the Iraqi people, safeguard their dignity, and protect the right of the citizens to self-expression.

B. Any elections must be held under normal circumstances away from pressure and coercion. The elections must also reflect the nation's will regarding its political system and express its right in total freedom to elect the president of the republic, away from coercion and force. The regime has not even allowed the people to educate themselves about elections and the existence of different views.

C. The regime has been in the habit of falsifying the will of the nation, denying it its legitimate duties, and harshly suppressing its aspirations. It has done this through dozens of terrorist security establishments. Therefore, no elections can reflect the views of the Iraqi people under the present circumstances of the Iraqi people unless these elections are subject to neutral international supervision and observation by renowned institutions, such as the United Nations, the Organization of Islamic Conference, and others.

The Iraqi people will stay in the arena of steadfastness and opposition. They do not recognize the legitimacy of the regime. The days of the Saddamist authority are numbered. Its structure, which is built on falsehood, oppression, and terrorism, is falling apart and will soon collapse.

[Signed] The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI]

Pro-Constitutional Monarchy Leader Interviewed

JN0809183695 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1640 GMT 8 Sep 95

[Telephone interview with al-Sharif 'Ali Bin-al-Husayn, leader of the "Pro-Constitutional Monarchy Movement in Iraq," in London, by Salim Badawi in the studio; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Badawi] What are the political and social forces and elements which are to be relied on in the process of change in the Baghdad regime?

[Bin-al-Husayn] After relying on God, we rely on the will of the Iraqi people and their sympathy with the Iraqi Hashemite royal family. We depend on people's support, particularly within Iraq, and are wagering on popular support for our movement. Since we began working in the open for the return of the constitutional monarchy to Iraq, one of the basic conditions has been that there should be a free and direct referendum by which the Iraqi people will decide the type of the political system they want; that if the system becomes a constitutional monarchy then the king must be an arbiter and not a ruler [hakaman wa laysa hakiman].

We consider this to be a reason for the popular support extended to the royal appeal. It will not be biased in favor of any side or party but will represent all parts of Iraqi society — denominationally, ethnically, and politically. We are not wagering on any particular group but on the entire Iraqi society.

[Badawi] Your Highness, what is your concept then, now that you are talking of a possible return of a constitutional monarchy to Iraq. How do you view the future political system in light of Jordanian King Husayn's call for establishing political, ethnic, and denominational pluralism in Iraq?

[Bin-al-Husayn] I believe the wish of all the Iraqis, all the parties, and all the political trends, is to renounce the oppressive era during which an individual or a party takes over power to the exclusion of all others. Our system must be a pluralistic, parliamentary system in which the supremacy of the law and human rights will prevail. If the Iraqi people opt for constitutional monarchy then the king will be an arbiter and not a ruler, as I have just said. He will protect human rights and defend the constitution. All the Iraqi groups and sides must play a role in Iraq's future. All the Iraqi Kurds will contribute to running the country and will have a say in deciding their future and the system of government by referendums, by elections. The state will depend on the constitution and the supremacy of the law.

[Badawi] Does this pluralistic formula mean establishing a federation or confederation among the Kurds, the Sunnis, and the Shiites in Iraq?

[Bin-al-Husayn] The type of the internal system, be it federation or confederation, is up to the Iraqi people to decide through a referendum, through dialogue and discussion. They should decide what the federation or the confederation exactly mean. I believe this will be up to the Iraqi people. As for the Sunnis, Shiites, Kurds, Turkmen, or Christians, these formulas were the makings of the regime. We hope that after the removal of the regime and after the deep wounds which the regime created in Iraqi society are healed, we will forget the negative classification of the Iraqi people. We will consider this diversity in society to be a positive thing. We will not decide the role of the individual based on his religion or ethic background but on his affiliation to a united Iraqi society which does not aim for discord but for accord.

Saddam Chairs Council of Ministers Session

JN1209190095 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Saddam Husayn has chaired the 35th session of the Council of Ministers.

The council discussed issues on its regular agenda, including some dam projects and reorganizing production and services contracts among government agencies, taking into consideration the fixed and changeable cost and specifying the commitments of each party in the contract.

The council also discussed several organizational issues and made the appropriate decisions on them.

Chairs Economic Committee Meeting

JN1209190195 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, has chaired a meeting of the Economic Affairs Committee. Taha Yasin Ramadan, vice president and deputy prime minister; and Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, chief of the Presidential Court, attended the session.

Report Says GDP Shrunk 35% Since Sanctions

MS1109102495 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 11 Sep 95 p 4

[Article by James Whittington: "Iraq's Citizens Count The Cost of Sanctions]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] After Friday prayers at noon the soup kitchen at the Shaykh Abdul Khaddam [as published] mosque in Baghdad is packed with thousands of the city's poor and hungry.

Eight years of war with Iran and five years of UN sanctions have reduced Iraq's economy to tatters. Despite the country's vast oil and water resources, real gross domestic product has been shrinking almost every year since 1979. Back then, in the hey-day of the oil boom, per capita income peaked at $8,313. By 1992 it had plummeted to $604 and has kept falling.

According to a report by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, real GDP is thought to have shrunk 35 per cent a year since sanctions began in August 1990.

Most of Iraq's 19m citizens go short of every commodity conceivable. Rampant inflation ensures that any meaningful amount of Iraqi dinars has to be carried around in shopping bags. In the past six months the black market rate to the dollar has more than doubled to ID2,000, [Iraqi Dinars] compared with the official rate of $3 to the dinar.

"Iraq's economy has entered the twilight zone," said one diplomat in Baghdad. "The only things that keep the wheels turning are some clever trading arrangements which help prop up the government's rationing system."

But with the defection of Lt Gen Husayn Kamil, Iraq's second most senior official, and other members of President Saddam Husayn's family last month, merchants in Baghdad are expecting an even greater squeeze on trade.

Jordan's King Husayn has begun tightly enforcing the sanctions regime at the borders. The king has rejected a US request to cut the official two-way trade, between Jordan and Iraq, but military check-points line the desert highway and Jordanian customs officials are cracking down on smuggling.

Merchants trading with Turkey say transit traffic in northern Iraq, which is controlled by the Kurds, has also fallen. Although Turkish diplomats in Baghdad say there has been no significant change in volumes since the defections, security concerns by Turkish drivers have cut the number of trucks carrying mainly food and medicine from Turkey in exchange for Iraqi diesel. The number of trucks is down from about 3,000 a day a year ago to 150 a day.

On top of this came an announcement last week by the Iraqi government that it, too, would stamp out trading of "banned" goods. Mr Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, Iraq's minister of information, said the move was aimed at reducing pressures on the country's limited sources of hard currency. "We need to focus on bringing in basic essentials rather than luxury goods merchants prefer to smuggle," he said.

Diplomats in Baghdad say it is impossible to put exact figures on the value of Iraq's trading activities. Guestimates from Baghdad put total trade at around $3bn. Imports are mostly arranged through barter deals, such as with Jordan and Turkey whereby Iraq exports discounted oil and petroleum products in exchange for food, clothes and medicine. Illicit barter trade also goes on with Iran and to a lesser extent Syria.

With crude oil production of around 600,000 barrels a day [b/d] (compared with a capacity of 3.5m b/d), and domestic consumption of 300,000 b/d, most observers believe the difference is being used to finance trade. Otherwise payment is on credit or in cash, which facilitates imports of rice from south-east Asian countries, tractors from Algeria, lamb from New Zealand, and beef from Sudan.

Apart from oil and dates, Iraq's only other main source of hard currency is a network of offshore accounts and front companies controlled by Mr Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, Iraq's representative to the UN in Geneva and Saddam Husayn's half-brother. Iraqi officials are coy about how the system works. "We can't discuss these things in public, my friend," laughs Mr Hammadi.

The Basle-based Bank of International Settlements shows Iraq's external holdings with member banks of $3.5bn at the end of last year, much of which has been frozen since the Gulf war. But unofficial estimates put Iraq's foreign assets at $35bn. Mr Hammadi scoffs at the figure. "If you find 95 per cent of this I'll let you keep it," he says.

Despite the difficulties, not everyone is suffering. A well-to-do Iraqi merchant says: "Everything and anything is available in Baghdad at a price and through the right people".

Iraqi merchants are hoping the government's new policy of co- operation with UN weapons inspectors will lead to an easing of sanctions. Until this happens, however, all economic indicators will continue to go one way: down.

Saddam Orders Increase in Sugar-Beet Purchase Prices

JN0809140695 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 24 Aug 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn ordered an increase in the purchase prices of sugar-beet from 5,000 to 15,000 dinars per tonne to support the farmers cultivating this vital crop.

His excellency also ordered granting quality incentives related to the crop's degree of sweetness as follows:

Degree of Sweetness	Price Per Tonne in Dinars
10	15,000
11	16,500
12	18,000
13	19,500
14	21,000
15	22,500

Ministry To Issue New Lists of Banned Commodities

JN1209202395 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY today, Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih said the Trade Ministry will shortly issue new lists of commodities that are not allowed to be imported or dealt in. These commodities will be included under the provisions of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] Decree No. 80, issued on 30 August 1995. The decree will take effect as of 10 October 1995.

The trade minister added that the new lists will have a margin of flexibility in contrast with the present lists. It is common knowledge that the RCC decree authorized the competent agencies to seize smuggled commodities in which no trading is allowed on the local market.

Official Warns of Water Shortage in Baghdad

JN1109204295 Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 6 Sep 95 p 7

[Report by In'am al-'Ubaydi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. 'Adnan 'Aziz Jabir, director general of the Baghdad Water Department, has warned against the continued shortage of drinking water in Baghdad due to the growing demand, halting the water projects under the blockade, and the increased squandering of water by citizens.

He said that Baghdad currently needs 3,000 million liters of water daily, compared with 1,800 million liters in 1989. No water project was carried out during this period, and the Department now meets only 80 percent of the demand for water, he added.

Jabir noted that Baghdad needs 1.08 billion liters annually, whereas all water projects in Baghdad produce 600 million liters annually. These projects can thus provide 60 percent of water needs. In other words, they can provide 300 liters to each person daily whereas one needs 500 liters daily because 40 percent of water is wasted inside the water networks. Work is currently being carried out to the best of our ability, he added.

He said: A number of old projects which should have been canceled since 1984, such as the al-Karamah, al-Dawrah, al-Wathbah, al-Qadisiyah, al-Wahdah, and al-Rashid water projects, have thus far been working at maximum capacity despite the expiry of their life expectancy. We also expanded the 7 April water project from 100 million gallons to 1,200 million gallons daily. Despite the blockade, water networks in 11 various Baghdad neighborhoods were modernized from 1992 to 1995. This year, the Department is modernizing four water networks in other Baghdad neighborhoods. Networks in other Baghdad areas should also be modernized, he noted.

Jabir added that the Department has linked more than 30 neighborhoods, which used to suffer from water shortage, to the direct water networks in order to improve water quality in them, contrary to engineering rules. Citizens should rationalize drinking water and use it appropriately in cooperation with the Department, he said.

He pointed out that the blockade has halted the al-Rasafah water project designed to supply water to al-Rasafah only. This was the only project intended to address the water shortage. Once implemented, the pumping of 100 million gallons of water from al-Karkh to al-Rasafah will stop, and this quantity of water will be dedicated to al-Karkh only. The water shortage in Baghdad can then be addressed, he added.

Saddam Orders Steps To Ease al-Basrah Water Shortage

JN0909185395 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has ordered the allocation of 30 million Iraqi dinars to transport fresh water from desalination units in al-Basrah Governorate to reservoirs that supply people with fresh water free of charge.

Al-Basrah Governor Latif Mahal Humud announced this to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY. He said that necessary measures were taken to transport fresh water from factories that manufacture chemical fertilizers, iron, steel, and petrochemicals to handle the shortage of drinking water which the people of al-Basrah are suffering from.

He added that this is one of leader President Saddam Husayn's generous gestures toward his loyal people in the city of all cities.

Operation of al-Mada'in Water Project Reported

JN0809203195 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 13 Aug 95 p 4

[Report by Nusayr al-'Ali]

[FBIS Translated Text] The State Enterprise for Water and Sewage has begun operating the new al-Mada'in water project, which supplies potable water to the residents of four areas at the rate of 15 million gallons per day. Speaking to AL-JUMHURIYAH, Baghdad Governor Qa'id Husayn al-'Awwadi said that the state enterprise has begun construction and has begun installing and operating all mechanical and electrical equipment using 100 percent Iraqi manpower. He added that the areas to be served by the project are al-Mada'in District and al-Jisr subdistrict by means of a pipeline with a water flow capacity of 900 cubic meters per hour and the subdistricts of al-Wahdah and al-Nahrawan with a water flow capacity of 1,200 cubic meters per hour. The engineer in charge of the project explained that the project consists of installations, stations, and service buildings, including a station for pumping water from lower areas, an installation for drawing water from the Tigris River, a large reservoir, three basins for sedimentation, and two reservoirs for water storage with a capacity of 5,000 cubic meters each.

Paper Reports on al-Anbar Irrigation Projects

JN0809202595 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 12 Aug 95 p 4

[Report by Rawiyah al-Hashim]

[FBIS Translated Text] Some 2,000 donums of lands in al-Jazirah region, which is three kilometers away from the new region of 'Anah in al-Anbar Governorate, are being irrigated by the water of the 'Anah irrigation project and the right-side Wadi al-Qasr project, which have been carried out by teams of al-Qadisiyah Company for Irrigation and Land Reclamation Projects. Company Manager General 'Abd-al-Rasul 'Abd-al-Husayn explained that the 'Anah irrigation project draws its water from the lake of al-Qadisiyah Dam.

The general manager said that the project included the building of a floating pumping station consisting of three pumps, each with a capacity of 124 liters per second, and a lifting capacity of up to 69 meters. Two of these pumps are operational and the third is a reserve. The pumping station is mounted on a float on the lake. The water is pumped through a 900-meter long pipe to a distribution basin with three irrigation concrete canals, each 2,049 meters long, leading into a field.

The general manager added that the right-side Wadi al-Qasr project consists of three pumps; one with a water flow capacity of 300 cubic meters per hour and two with a capacity of 200 cubic meters per hour, and a lifting capacity of up to 60 meters. He said that two pumps are operational and the third is a reserve. They pump water through metal pipelines to the fields. The water is distributed through two cement pipelines.

A responsible source in al-Rafidayn Company for the Construction of Dams has said that company teams are continuing their work to implement the left-side Wadi al-Qasr project in the same region to irrigate an area of 1,000 donums. He added that the work includes building a set of six pumps during the third stage of the project, each with a flow capacity of 1.5 cubic meters per second and a lifting capacity of up to 14 meters. The work will involve building two reservoirs to irrigate high level lands.

Law on Irrigation, Drainage Networks

JN0909153095 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 20 Aug 95 p 4

[RCC Decree No. 72 dated 12 August]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate.

Republic of Iraq

Revolution Command Council [RCC] Decree No. 72 of 16 Rabi' al-Awwal 1416 Hegira corresponding to 12 August 1995.

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the Revolution Command Council decrees to issue Law No. 12 of 1995.

Law on Protection of Irrigation and Drainage Networks.

Chapter One: Aims of the Law

Article 1: This law aims at protecting irrigation and drainage networks and their installations, ensuring their management and operation according to their designs, protecting irrigated agricultural lands from any harm resulting from neglect, salinity, and low fertility, and specifying the quarters responsible for undertaking all the above.

Chapter Two: Irrigation and Drainage Networks

Article 2: First: Irrigation networks shall consist of:

A. Main canals: These are irrigation canals which transport water from the sources to branch canals or the agricultural project.

B. Branch canals: These are irrigation canals which transport water from the main canals to secondary canals.

C. Secondary canals: These are the canals which transport water from the branch canals to field canals.

D. Field canals: These are irrigation canals which transport water from the secondary canals to the field directly.

Second: Drainage canals consist of:

A. Field canals: These are open or covered canals for disposing of drainage water from the field to assembly canals.

B. Assembly canals: These are open or covered canals for collecting drainage water from the fields.

C. Secondary canals: These are drainage canals which transport drainage water from the assembly canals to branch or main canals.

D. Branch canals: These are the canals which transport drainage water from the secondary canals to the main canals.

E. Main canals: These are the canals which transport drainage water from the agricultural project and other lands to a general terminal, low lands, evaporation basins, or other outlets.

Third: The following installations shall be attached to the irrigation and drainage networks:

A. Irrigation installations: These consist of pumping stations and main and secondary regulators and their accessories, including gates, metal networks, different irrigation outlets, waterfalls, escapes, and bridges.

B. Drainage installations: These consist of pumping stations, terminals, bridges, and other installations included in the designs.

Article 3: The departments undertaking the study and design of irrigation and drainage projects shall prepare a guide for managing, operating, and maintaining these projects, provided it is ready upon completion of the project or its first stage. The guide shall be given to the quarter responsible for operating and maintaining the project, and it shall be accompanied by all maps pertaining to the implemented project.

Chapter Three: Management and Exploitation of Agricultural Lands

Article 4: The quarter implementing land reclamation projects shall inform the beneficiary quarter in the Ministry of Irrigation and Agriculture about the area of the reclaimed lands and the date on which they will be handed over at least 180 days in advance. The beneficiary quarter shall draw up the necessary plans specifying the area, the distribution unit, the different land proprietorships, and their sites.

Article 5: First: The State Organization for the Operation of Irrigation Projects, which henceforth shall be referred to here as the "organization," and the departments of agriculture in the governorates shall be responsible for maintaining the following rivers and irrigation and drainage canals and their installations:

A. Natural rivers.

B. The main drainage canals, terminals, and vaporization basins.

C. The main irrigation and drainage canals shown on the maps and their installations, as well as the pumping stations located on the lands.

D. The main, branch, and secondary irrigation canals with a flow of 400 liters per second and more, as well as the branch and secondary drainage canals and their installations and pumping stations.

Second: The farmer shall be responsible for maintaining branch canals with a flow of less than 400 liters per second, as well as the assembly canals serving his land, under the guidance and control of the departments of irrigation in coordination with the cooperative peasant societies.

For the purposes of this law, the farmer is the one who owns the land and has the right of free disposal in the land, the one who has leased the land, the peasant who has been granted the land, or the contractor with the Agrarian Reform Department.

Third: A: The appointment of water controllers to control the distribution of internal water in the canals. Their number shall be determined by the departments of agriculture and their wages shall be paid by the beneficiaries from the water in every administrative unit or project. The method of their nomination and appointment, the payment of their wages, and their duties and everything relating to their affairs including the organization of their contracts, shall be outlined in the guidelines which shall be issued by the Ministry of Irrigation.

B. Those covered by the provisions of Paragraph A of this clause are not subject to the laws on service, retirement, and labor.

Article 6: The farmer must abide by the following:

First: A. Apply intensive cultivation, which means maximum cultivation of the land according to the nature of its soil and the share of the water, both in summer and winter.

B. Make best use of the water within the times fixed by the departments of agriculture, especially during night irrigation. Avoid any spilling from irrigation canals to drainage networks.

C. Preserve and maintain existing field drainage canals and terminals.

D. Abide by the fixed shares of water according to project designs.

Second: A. Avoid any damage to irrigation and drainage canals and installations, including head gates.

B. Avoid expanding fields beyond the areas fixed in the project designs.

C. Avoid exploiting the lands on the river banks as quarries, fish pools, or for industrial purposes without the prior approval of the Ministry of Irrigation.

D. Avoid placing any irregular barriers, installations, or culverts on irrigation and drainage networks.

Article 7: First: During the first quarter of each year, a cut- rate fee shall be charged for irrigating each donum of land, as per the ratios and terms which will be approved by the cabinet for different types of land as follows:

A. Fully reclaimed lands.

A. Agricultural lands which are irrigated by flooding water or through a device owned by the state.

B. The field or bank which is irrigated by flooding water or through a device owned by the state.

B. Partially reclaimed lands.

1. Agricultural lands which are irrigated by flooding water or through a device owned by the state.

2. The field or bank which is irrigated by flooding water or through a device owned by the state.

C. Unreclaimed lands.

1. Agricultural lands which are irrigated by flooding water or through a device owned by the state.

2. The field which is irrigated by flooding water or through a device owned by the state.

D. Lands which are exploited for fishery projects.

Second: A part of a donum, or an area which is less than one donum, is not subject to this fee.

Third: An agricultural land or field which is irrigated through a device owned by the state shall be charged 50 percent of the fixed fee.

Fourth: The fee fixed in clauses "First" and "Second" in this article is paid by the farmer or his partner who runs the land or field.

Fifth: The fee specified in clauses "First" and "Second" in this article shall be doubled if it is not paid within 90 days from its due date.

Sixth: An agricultural land, field, or bank is exempted of the fee if the water is cut off, or if cultivation is impossible for any reasons beyond the control of the farmer.

Article 8: The departments of agriculture in the governorates shall receive the fees fixed under the this law and record them as a trust in their possession. The fees shall be used to maintain and improve irrigation and drainage networks and pay the wages of water controllers, who are hired by the Ministry of Irrigation, after deducting not less than five percent and not more than 20 percent for distribution as rewards among outstanding workers in the irrigation units or those in charge of operating irrigation and drainage networks, as per the guidelines which will be issued by the minister of irrigation.

Chapter Four: Punitive Rules

Article 9: First: If the farmer fails to maintain any part of the irrigation or drainage canal or installation which serves his land or falls under his responsibility under the provisions of clause "Second" of Article 5 of this law, the organization and the competent departments of irrigation shall maintain that part and charge him the cost of maintenance at the current prices plus 20 percent of the total cost as administrative charges.

Second: If the farmer fails to pay the sum according to the provisions of clause "First" of this article, he shall be given a warning. If he again fails to pay within 30 days from the date of the warning, the sum shall be increased by 50 percent. If he also fails to pay within those 30 days, the farmer shall be made to pay under the provisions of Law No. 56 of 1977 on Obtaining Government Debts.

Article 10: First: Whoever contravenes the provisions of clauses "First" and "Second" of Article 6 of this law shall be punishable by a fine of not less than 1,000 dinars and not more than 5,000 dinars plus compensation for any damage done. The punishment shall be imprisonment for a period of not more than six months plus compensation for any damage if the contravention of the provisions of clause "Second" of the same article is repeated.

Second: In addition to the punishment stipulated in clause "First" of this article, a farmer who contravenes the provisions of Paragraph B of clause "First" of Article 6 of this law shall be punishable by a fine of 100 dinars for every donum of his land if he repeats the offense.

Article 11: First: The director general of the organization and the directors of irrigation in the governorates shall assume the authority of a magistrate in charging the fines provided for in Article 10 of this law. If it becomes obvious to anyone of them that the offense calls for a prison sentence, he may detain the contravener and refer him to the competent court.

Second: It is permissible to appeal the sentences and decisions issued under the provisions of clause "First" of this article within 30 days from the date of notification before a special board. The board will be chaired by an under secretary from the ministry and include a technician from the ministry, whose rank is not below that of director general, and the director of legal affairs. The board shall investigate the sentences and decisions and consider the appeal in accordance with the provisions of Penal Code No. 23 of 1971. The board's decision shall be final.

Third: The report submitted by the competent official from the department of irrigation in the region, where the offense has been committed, shall be considered sufficient evidence for conviction if it is also backed by the responsible engineer, unless proof of innocence is submitted. The competent quarter considering the offense may request the presence of the writer of the report for discussion.

Article 12: The departments of irrigation in the governorates and the project managements shall, each within its own field of specialization, be responsible for supervising and following up on implementation of the provisions of this law and referring offenders to the quarters specified in it for punishment. The administrative units, the executive directorates, and the police departments shall take all the necessary measures for implementing the provisions of this law within their jurisdictions.

Article 13: First: If the official responsible for supervising and following up on the implementation of the provisions of this law fails to refer contraveners to the competent quarters, he shall be punished by making him pay the fine fixed for the offense concerned. This does not prevent carrying out the punishment against the original contravener.

Second: The minister of irrigation shall enforce the fine provided for in clause "First" of this article on the directors of irrigation or project managers of irrigation and drainage projects in the governorates if they fail to settle any offense case referred to them within 30 days from the date of filing the case without any legitimate reasons. The director general of the organization shall enforce the aforementioned fine on the officials responsible for supervising, following up on, and reporting offenses, if they fail to supervise, follow up on, or report them within 15 days from the date of their occurrence.

Chapter Five: General and Final Rules

Article 14: First: Forty percent of the fine imposed under the provisions of Article 10 of this law shall be recorded as a trust in the possession of the project management concerned. It shall be spent on operating and maintaining the project. Twenty percent of the fine shall be revenue for the Ministry of Finance.

Second: As per the guidelines to be issued by the minister of irrigation, the remainder of the fine stipulated in clause "First" of this law shall be distributed as follows:

A. Thirty percent to the informer of the offense.

B. Seventy percent to the filer of the technical report, the official in charge of irrigation, and the engineers, technicians, and workers of the department of irrigation in the district or subdistrict concerned. The percentage payment shall be commensurate with their responsibility and the effort exerted.

Article 15: The fees and charges stipulated in this law shall be obtained according to the provisions of Law No. 56 of 1977 on Obtaining Government Debts.

Article 16: The minister of irrigation shall issue guidelines to facilitate implementation of the provisions of this law.

Article 17: The Law No. 112 of 1983 on the Maintenance of Irrigation and Drainage Networks and the Protection of Reclaimed Lands is hereby canceled. The guidelines issued under that law shall remain valid as long as they do not conflict with the provisions of his law until they are replaced.

Article 18: This law shall be implemented as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

[Signed] RCC Chairman Saddam Husayn

TV Reports Peres-'Arafat Meeting Postponed

TA1209185795 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1730 GMT 12 Sep 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Peres-'Arafat meeting will not be held tomorrow as scheduled. 'Arafat will hold an emergency meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Cairo this evening on the deportation of thousands of Palestinians from Libya. Our correspondent Dan Scemama reports that the Peres-'Arafat meeting will probably take place only on Thursday [14 September]. The meeting will deal with the issues of Hebron, the prisoners, water, and electricity. At their meeting the two are also supposed to set the date for the signing of the agreement in Washington. The date currently mentioned is 21 September, a Thursday.

[In a video report by 'Imanu'el Rosen from Kiev, Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew at 1800 reports that upon arrival there "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today estimated that the interim agreement with the Palestinians will be signed in Washington next week. In Kiev, the capital of Ukraine, Rabin heard from the Ukrainian prime minister that his country's relations with Iran are on the civilian plane only." Also, "it is stated in Rabin's entourage that a meeting between Rabin and 'Arafat is possible this coming Friday already, so as to allow for the signing of the interim accord in Washington next week."]

Peres Calls 'Urgent' Consultation on Jericho Trials

TA1209193495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres is convening an urgent consultation about the negotiations with the Palestinians. The Peres-'Arafat meeting scheduled for tomorrow has been canceled. Justice Minister David Liba'i said this evening that tomorrow's consultation will deal with a reaction to the meaningless trials that the Palestinian Authority [PA] conducts in order to evade the extradition of wanted people who murdered Israeli citizens. The justice minister views with concern the advantage the PA takes of the accord with Israel in order to grant asylum to murderers. The image the PA is creating for itself is one of supporting the murder of Israelis, he said, adding that the ministerial committee is now holding up the release of Palestinian prisoners until the PA's conduct becomes clear. At the same time, he said, the release of the prisoners is not conditional on the extradition of wanted people. His remarks were reported by our correspondent Mira Amsalem.

In contrast, Police Minister Shahal says there is a link between the extradition of wanted people and the release of Palestinian prisoners. During a visit to Elat, Shahal said that the issue of extradition currently features at the center of the talks with the Palestinians, who should abide by the agreements they signed. His remarks were quoted by our correspondent Yehudit Zilberstein.

Rabin on 'Peace Map,' Future of Golan Settlements

TA1209121795 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 12 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Uri Sharon and ITIM]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] "I am in favor of historical rights, but I do not insist on each centimeter," Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday told high school students in Nesher, which he visited to mark the settlement's inauguration as a town.

The prime minister noted that no place is holier to the Jewish people than Mount Sinai, which was in our hands, but Likud leader Menahem Begin gave it back to Egypt, together with the entire Sinai Peninsula. "The Bible is a book of values and heritage but not an atlas," Rabin said.

The prime minister reiterated that he sees the borders of the peace map as including the Jordan River as the security border, Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, and "the Palestinian Authority, which is less than a state, living in peace alongside Israel."

In reply to a question, the prime minister said that according to Radio Damascus, "the aim of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad is to get rid of Yitzhaq Rabin and his government, which would bring about the cessation of the peace process, after which Hamas would take over the Palestinian street."

In response to a question, the prime minister said that when he declared that we should not come down from the Golan Heights, he meant that Israel would not reduce its current military presence on the Golan and not that it would not remove the settlements from there. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 12 September on page 19 carries a similar report, quoting the prime minister as adding: "A war on the Golan will be decided by tanks and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and not by the settlements, which were evacuated during the Yom Kippur War."]

Rabin believes the defense budget must be increased because a strong IDF is a guarantee of the peace process. "Without military prowess, we will not be able to live in security in the face of threats to our existence," he said.

The prime minister said the State of Israel must be defended from the Jordan border and not from Ari'el and 'Imanu'el, which are located 50 km from Tel Aviv and Netanya. Referring to the Palestinian problem, he said it does not pose a military threat to Israel.

According to Rabin, "the political map on the eve of the Knesset elections will be different from that which existed prior to the elections to the 12th Knesset."

Government Shows Flexibility on Accord Opponents' Entry

TA1309071795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel and the Palestinian Authority [PA] have agreed to allow senior PLO members who oppose the Oslo agreement to enter the autonomous areas. Israel has imposed a condition that those returning will not be involved in planning terrorist attacks or pose a threat to security. Hundreds of senior PLO officials opposed to the peace process have requested to move to Jericho and Gaza from abroad.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 13 September includes a related report by Yoni Ben-Menahem adding: "Israeli security sources say Israel has made its policy more flexible at 'Arafat's request." "Israel is interested in helping 'Arafat deal with the opposition to his policy within Fatah by moderating it in anticipation of the implementation of the second stage of the Oslo agreement in Judaea and Samaria.

["The sources add that 'Arafat is personally choosing the opponents he wants to bring into the autonomy. He then asks Israel to approve their entrance. So far Israel has not rejected any of 'Arafat's requests."]

Peres Urges Opposition Leaders To Quell Unrest

BR1209143995 Milan PANORAMA in Italian 14 Sep 95 p 59

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given: "No to Blackmail" — first paragraph is PANORAMA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Shim'on Peres, foreign minister of the Jewish state, has received numerous death threats from Israeli extremists. PANORAMA interviewed him.

[PANORAMA] Do you think the threats are in earnest?

[Peres] I prefer to look at the phenomenon for what it is: an impulsive, unacceptable attempt to create a split in public opinion, to introduce a method of violent intervention into national political practice so as to influence the government's decisions. It is unacceptable blackmail.

[PANORAMA] Does the traditional opposition bear any direct responsibility in your opinion?

[Peres] In general, I think it would be a good idea for the leaders of the opposition to call on the malcontents to behave in a politically decent manner, and to take measures to prevent the situation from degenerating.

[PANORAMA] The opposition is accusing the government of not respecting the minority and of ignoring the rights of the settlers...

[Peres] This government, which was democratically elected, has been far from forgetting the rights of the minority, and the settlers know full well that we have paid great attention to issues concerning their security during the negotiations. The largest investment item in our budget is spending on the roads and logistic structures designed to ensure the settlers' security.

[PANORAMA] They nevertheless feel that they are being abandoned to an uncertain future...

[Peres] The opposition movements have to accept the fact that there is a government elected by the majority of the population in Israel, and that its decisions carry legal force. They, too, must act with democratic methods.

[PANORAMA] Is the peace process going ahead?

[Peres] Of course. The signature of the second part of the Oslo Agreement is only a matter of days away now.

Palestinian Murder Trial Sparks Sharp Reactions

TA1209130795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel has reacted sharply to the summary trial in Jericho of the two Palestinian terrorists suspected of murdering Uri Shahor and Ohad Bachrach in Wadi al-Qilt.

Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer called it a blatant violation of the agreement with Israel. Justice Minister David Liba'i said that when the prime minister returns from his trip abroad, political deliberations will be held on the matter. Coalition Chairman Ra'anan Kohen is calling for a halt to the release of Palestinian prisoners in Israel and to the transfer of powers to the Palestinian Authority [PA].

Knesset Member Yehoshu'a Matza, chairman of the Likud Secretariat, has demanded that Jericho be put under closure until the two murderers are extradited to Israel. He blamed the government for the summary trial because it did not present the extradition requests on time. Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan suggested going into Jericho to capture and kill the two murderers.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 12 September adds that "the Knesset will convene on 20 September in a special session during the recess at the request of the Likud, Labor, and Meretz. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the Likud faction presented 30 signatures demanding a debate on the refusal to extradite the two Wadi al-Qilt murderers, the ongoing concessions in the Peres-'Arafat talks, and the decision to release terrorists imprisoned in Israel. The Labor and Meretz factions presented 30 signatures demanding a debate on the Wadi al-Qilt murder and the Oslo B accord."]

Netanyahu Rejects Trial

TA1209175695 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Sep 95

[Telephone interview with opposition leader Binyamin Netanyahu by Tamar Landau and Rafi Ginat; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Landau] Good day to you, Knesset Member [MK] Binyamin Netanyahu. Did this trick by the Palestinian Authority [PA] surprise you?

[Netanyahu] No, nor was I surprised by the government's regrettable attempt, through its ministers, to defend a blatant violation of the Oslo accord. This entire accord is a show, after all.

[Landau] For the sake of precision, MK Netanyahu, Minister Ben-Eli'ezer said today that the murderers' extradition and trial in Israel should be demanded at once.

[Netanyahu] I am glad about such voices and would like to encourage them. This is a flagrant violation of the Oslo accord, after all. 'Arafat is turning us into a laughing stock, and these summary, make-believe trials are intended to allow these murderers to enjoy a summer camp in Jericho until the storm subsides, until the government's defense ends and it will be possible to receive additional territories and cities of refuge. What the government should do now is to impose a closure on Jericho, and the prime minister should say that this closure will not be lifted before the murderers are extradited to us.

[Ginat] Tzomet's Refa'el Eytan suggested this morning that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] enter Jericho and even kill the murderers. Do you support such a far-reaching suggestion?

[Netanyahu] I do not want to say anything beyond what I have just said. You know that my position is that we should set a principle that we act anywhere west of the Jordan River according to our security needs. It is clear that if the PA does not fulfill its undertakings to capture murderers and put them on real trial — or, in this case, to extradite them — the duty to protect Israeli citizens against these murderers is ours, and this means freedom of action according to circumstances.

[Landau] In the framework of this responsibility, should we also consider halting or suspending the negotiations?

[Netanyahu] I think that one of the lessons we should draw now is that we cannot continue in this direction. After all, look what happened in the case of this terrorist squad. A member of the squad was captured in Qalqilyah. Just imagine — once we leave Qalqilyah and the PLO enters it, would anyone have captured this murderer? Certainly not. Second, we know that the IDF, the Shin Bet, carried out the intelligence work in the entire area. If we leave the area, if we leave Judaea and Samaria, can the Shin Bet operate? Surely not.

[Landau] The question is whether halting or suspending the negotiations will not pile extra complications on an already complicated problem. Should we not resolve and end it so that we have clear lines to follow?

[Netanyahu] There are no clear lines. This government does not have any lines. What should be done is to stop this process and start a new process, to change directions.

[Ginat] Should we cancel the Oslo accord?

[Netanyahu] Look, there is no question of canceling here; as you can see, this agreement was and is canceled by the other side.

[Ginat] So, should it be formally canceled?

[Netanyahu] I think we should decide that the Israeli interest takes precedence. When we make up the government, the basis for our policy will be that the supreme interest, security, is under our responsibility, and the other interests too, such as state lands and water, also fall under our responsibility. We will look for Palestinian partners who truly accept the existence of the State of Israel, who are truly prepared to fight terror. If they are not prepared to do so, we will demand this of them until it is proven that we have true partners for the peace negotiations. It will not be peace if we cheat ourselves. It will be peace if we can return home safely, if Israeli citizens feel secure. Today there is neither security, nor peace.

Peres: PA Trial Not Accord Violation

TA1309123995 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinians did not violate the agreement when they failed to extradite to Israel the murderers of two Israelis in Wadi al-Qilt, and the talks with them will not stop. This was decided this morning in consultations held at the office of Shim'on Peres, the acting prime minister, with the participation of the justice minister, the attorney general, and senior security officials. Consequently, the Peres-'Arafat talks will resume in Taba on the evening of 16 September. Peres explained the decision in an interview with IDF Radio.

[Begin Peres recording] Formally speaking, this does not represent a violation of the agreement. Formally, in accordance with the agreement, we are entitled to demand their extradition to Israel for the crime they perpetrated in Israel after they had completed their prison sentence, which is exactly what we will do. According to the agreement, according to any extradition agreement, when a country seeks the extradition of criminals or suspects for a crime committed in its territory, the request is granted if the people are not tried by that same country. Only when they finish serving their sentence can their extradition be sought once again. [end recording]

EYAL Leader Detained for Halhul Murder Claim

TA1309122995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Avishay Raviv, leader of EYAL [Irgun Yehudi Lohem], was detained in Hebron at noon today. Raviv was wanted for interrogation following a statement issued by his organization in which it assumed responsibility for the Halhul murder.

Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the Hebron police also detained No'am Federman on suspicion that he has violated a decree issued by the commander of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Central Command restricting his movement to his house. In the process of detaining the two, three settlers were also detained on suspicion of attacking policemen.

This noon there were disturbances in the center of Hebron following confrontations between Arabs and settlers near the girls school in the city this morning. Our correspondents Gay Qotev and Yoni Ben-Menahem report that IDF soldiers used shock grenades to disperse the demonstrators.

Sources Say 'at Least 13 Fugitives' in Jericho

TA1209131995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Security sources say there are at least 13 fugitives that Israel is looking for because of their involvement in terrorist attacks in Jericho. The sources told our correspondent that we have no knowledge that these wanted men have been arrested by the Palestinian Authority [PA]. Our correspondent Yoni Ben- Menahem reports that two fugitives belong to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], two to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and nine to Fatah, and were involved in harming collaborators. Some of them became part of Jibril al-Rujub's Preventive Security Service and one is responsible for its interrogations.

Brigadier General Ya'aqov 'Amidror, deputy head of Military Intelligence and in charge of research, said that anybody who deludes himself into thinking the Palestinians will extradite Palestinians to Israel should wake up. The security services gave that assessment even prior to the agreement with the PLO, he said. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Brig. Gen. 'Amidror made the remarks to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. He said that 'Arafat does not feel personally involved in peace, and acted out of a feeling that he had no alternative, the same reason Israel had. He said Hamas is setting up a political party in Gaza for fear of losing popular support, but the political party will not replace the terrorist bands. An agreement has not yet been reached in the PA-Hamas negotiations, he said. 'Arafat is demanding that Hamas cease all its terrorist actions, while Hamas is prepared to end terrorism only inside the Gaza Strip and originating there. Gen. 'Amidror added that there are fields where our intelligence arm's capability in the Gaza Strip has reached zero, but there are also fields where it has increased — and there are new elements, from the intelligence point of view, such as the PA's war against Hamas terrorism.

MK Gutman, Hebron Mayor Involved in 'Scuffle'

TA1309110995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Hebron this morning there were confrontations between Arabs and settlers who wanted to remove the PLO flag from the girls school. The flag was finally removed following an order by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers. The area was declared a closed military zone, and military and police forces removed the opposing sides from the area.

Our correspondent Gay Qotev reports that one settler and two Arabs were detained for interrogation. The Palestinians say that several Arab female students were slightly hurt in the mayhem. Among those involved in the scuffle were Knesset Member Sha'ul Gutman, who tried to prevent the detention of the settler, and Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah.

Deputy Intelligence Chief on Iraq, Jordan

TA1209154195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brigadier General Ya'aqov 'Amidror, deputy chief of Intelligence in charge of research, says that the defection of Saddam Husayn's sons-in-law has dealt him a severe blow since it undermined his status among his associates, but we should lower expectations regarding the deposing of Saddam. Brig. Gen. 'Amidror added that Syria is afraid of an Israeli-Jordanian axis and of a new Iraq that will sign a peace treaty with Israel. On the other hand, the defection allowed Jordan to heal wounds with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states, and contacts there are already under way. The Intelligence deputy chief spoke at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Spain's Gonzalez: EU Likely To Reject Bank Plan

TA1209102895 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The European Union is likely to reject a joint appeal by Israel and surrounding Arab countries for a Middle East regional development bank within the next month, effectively killing the idea for now, visiting Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez told Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday.

"Gonzalez told the prime minister that most of the European countries are against the development bank. While saying that a formal decision has yet to be taken, he made it clear that it does not look good at all," a Rabin aide said.

Gonzalez's statement carries a lot of weight, as Spain currently holds the rotating chairmanship of the EU, and the EU holds an effective veto over the establishment of such a body. A decision on the bank must be made within the next six weeks, before the regional economic summit convenes in Amman. The development bank was expected to be central to plans for financing of infrastructure projects. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who has been active for the last two years in pressing for a development bank, has yet to give up. His meeting with French President Jacques Chirac in Paris yesterday is seen as a last-ditch effort to save the bank by winning French support for the concept.

Peres's remarks to reporters yesterday after the meeting suggest that he did not bring Chirac around. He said that France favored other ideas over a bank.

A senior Finance Ministry official said that Germany, the EU's leading financial power, has been leading the drive against the establishment of a bank.

Finance Ministry officials admit that if the EU rejects the idea of a development bank now, it will have effectively killed the idea for the foreseeable future.

"The Americans and Japanese have signaled willingness to provide their share, but on the condition that the establishment of such a bank can only be by consensus of the key countries. In other words, if the EU, which would be putting in a chunk of the funds, does not want it, it will not happen," the official said.

He said the plan envisioned in a joint appeal by Israel, Egypt, Jordan, and the Palestinians would have big industrialized countries putting down an initial investment of $1.5 billion over five years, with $3.5 billion to be added later.

The official said the EU is not opposing the bank for financial reasons, but for political motives. "When it comes down to it," he said, "the Europeans do not like the idea that the countries in the region plan their own regional economic development. Instead, they want the countries to be dependent on Europe to decide what they will fund, and what they will not fund."

This official also claimed that the EU fears the establishment of a bank would mean bolstering American economic influence in the region, since the U.S. has been supporting the establishment of a bank.

An EU official was not available for comment.

While refusing to say that the decision not to establish the bank precludes regional infrastructure projects, the official claimed that the net effect will be that the EU will work individually with countries in the region.

"The likelihood now is more bilateral instead of regional projects," he said.

EU officials have called for the establishment of a regional body that would identify potential development projects, but the body would not be funded to carry out the proposed projects.

Gonzalez reiterated the EU's commitment to coordinating international monitoring of the Palestinian elections in the areas, which are expected by year's end. "The European Union is committed to sending observers and to coordinating," he said. "Also, funding has already been earmarked for the elections."

Bosnia Operation Seen as Prelude to Iraq Invasion

TA1209134495 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (24 SHA'OT supplement) in Hebrew 12 Sep 95 p 3

[Commentary by Sever Plotzker: "Next Stop: Baghdad"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The NATO offensive in Bosnia calls for an explanation. The simple explanation is that the Americans got fed up with European helplessness and decided to bring the Serbs to serious peace negotiations. To that end they briefed and gave their backing to the Croatian army, which "liberated" the Krajina autonomous area of the Serbian presence, and then they began bombing and shelling Serbian positions throughout Serbia. In other words, the Americans suddenly felt moralistic and decided to intercede on behalf of the weak and losing side. As they usually do.

The simple explanation entails a big truth which cannot be ignored: only the United States can do it. Even when what is at stake is a tribal war inside Europe that does not affect any U.S. interests, European statesmen are unable to intervene and tip the scales. They lack the political courage to send their troops to die for Sarajevo. They leave the dirty work of a massive military response to the Americans. If the Americans do not intervene, nobody else does. In a single superpower world the United States is called upon to lead any military international move, to send its army to fight for freedom, food, and democracy in the most recondite corners of the globe. After you, America. That was the case in Somalia and Haiti, and is also the case in Bosnia.

This does not, however, explain NATO's assertive operation in Bosnia. It does not make sense for the U.S. Army to use super-sophisticated guided ballistic missiles only to teach a lesson to a few dozen Serbian gunners on the hills surrounding Banja Luka equipped with inaccurate, low-quality, and obsolete Soviet equipment. NATO's massive operation in Serbia, out of proportion with the forces of the "Serbian enemy," must have a broader and deeper strategic objective.

Sarajevo, in my opinion, is a stopover en route to Baghdad.

Intense U.S. involvement in bringing about the downfall of Saddam Husayn's regime has been evident in the last two months. The Americans arranged the escape of Husayn Kamil from Baghdad to Amman and broadly publicized his disclosures about the development of biological weapons. Another senior Iraqi defector exposed the secret money channels to Swiss private bank accounts used by Saddam's clique. Horror stories about the extravagant life in Saddam's inner circle appeared in the media around the world. The international boycott on the Iraqi regime was meticulously enforced, bringing about the collapse of the Iraqi economy.

In addition to that, the United States very quietly began moving thousands of troops to our region and placing them in high-alert positions around Iraq.

Presumably, what the United States has in mind for Iraq is the "Haiti solution." According to that scenario, President Clinton will soon announce, either in a news conference or elsewhere, that he is giving Saddam Husayn 24 hours to get out of Baghdad and find asylum in Mauritania, Libya, or Egypt. He will be given an ultimatum: If you do not run away, U.S. cargo planes will begin appearing in Iraq's skies and marines will land in Baghdad. Do you remember our ballistic missiles? We have just finished another dress rehearsal of their operation in Bosnia.

The Americans apparently believe that the international forces that will invade Iraq will not meet any resistance. The regime will fall of its own volition, like a house of cards. But they would prefer Saddam to run away. Under him, they will anoint somebody like Husayn Kamil, who will undertake to march Iraq toward democracy and hold the first free elections within a prearranged time frame. He will be given quasi-military aid and the embargo will be lifted.

The operation to bring down Saddam requires the political support of most Arab states, and even their symbolic participation in the liberating force, in order to succeed. The Arab world, however, will not support or back a NATO operation against Saddam Husayn if the West and the United States do not prove beforehand that they are determined to undertake a broad offensive against the Serbs for the sake of the Muslims in Bosnia.

Were it not for the NATO bombings in Bosnia, Arab public opinion in Amman, Damascus, and Morocco would ask: What did you do for the Muslims of Sarajevo? What did the Americans and the West Europeans, who worry so much about stability in the Middle East and are prepared to intervene with force to bring down the man who threatens their interests in the oil fields, do for the sake of the Muslims being bombarded there?

Now NATO has an answer. We fought for them, we used high-quality military force in Europe, which we had not done since 1945. We even enraged the Russians, and we did all of this in order to lift the siege from the Muslim government and to consolidate a fair and practical peace agreement in war-torn Yugoslavia. And now, let us proceed to the next stop in the new world order: Baghdad.

Of course, all this is just speculation, a scenario, and wishful thinking.

Editorial: Indyk Absence Suggests Waning Support

TA1109125095 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (HAYOM supplement) in Hebrew 11 Sep 95 p 3

[Commentary by Moshe Zaq: "Indyk's 'Prior Engagement'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk indeed had a prior engagement which prevented his participation in the opening ceremony to launch the festivities of David's Kingdom in Jerusalem, but it was not the barbecue to celebrate Labor Day in the United States. The prior engagement was implicit in the ambassador's statement to the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, on the eve of his departure for Israel, that moving the embassy to Jerusalem would set off an explosion in the region. The ambassador was supposed to withdraw this erroneous assessment, which was tantamount to inviting an Arab threat against Israel over the Jerusalem issue. Upon his arrival in Israel, however, he faced a shower of criticism from "political elements" and "Israeli experts" over the veto the Americans imposed at the UN Security Council to prevent a condemnation of Israel for building in Jerusalem.

"Knowledgeable sources" flooded the media with harsh allegations against the United States for harming the chances of peace by voting in Israel's favor. One can assume that the ambassador informed Washington that many in the Israeli establishment would understand and respect a restrained U.S. position on the issue of Jerusalem. This is the basis for the emergence of the U.S. commitment not to adopt any move that may vex the Arabs in Jerusalem. This is the real "barbecue" where the ambassador's absence from the opening ceremony of the Jerusalem 3000 festivities was cooked.

The prophecies about the U.S. veto hurting its status as an honest broker and causing a break in the talks with the Palestinians and the Syrians were eventually disproven. On the contrary, following the U.S. veto in May, the Syrians agreed to a U.S. initiative on the resumption of the talks between the Israeli and Syrian chiefs of staff in June, and if there were difficulties in the negotiations with the Palestinians, these were not caused by the U.S. position.

The Arab threats to halt the talks if the United States transfers its embassy to Jerusalem or participates in the Jerusalem celebrations or vetoes a condemnation of Israel over the Jerusalem issue are idle ones. The Palestinians will not stop the talks because of U.S. support for Israel. They need Israel's support with Congress, which will deal this week with proposals to restrict financial aid to the Palestinian Authority. The more cowardice the United States demonstrates in the face of Palestinian threats, the greater the difficulties that will surface in the Israeli- Palestinian negotiations. Amb. Indyk's absence from the Jerusalem festivities can also be interpreted as a decline in U.S. support for Israel and therefore make Israel's negotiations with the Palestinians more difficult.

King David and Jerusalem do not need Amb. Indyk's endorsement/approval. The celebrations have meaning even without the presence of the ambassadors, but the U.S. ambassador's absence reinforces the significance of the EU boycott of the celebrations. The EU countries are angry over their nonparticipation in the political process. Willy Claes, the Belgian who now serves as NATO secretary general, once stood in the Belgian Parliament and demanded that the trade accord between the EEC countries and Israel be frozen until Jerusalem agrees to include Europe in the Israeli-Arab negotiations. Such declarations are no longer made in public, but the EU ministers are doing everything possible to limit Israel's moves, particularly in Jerusalem, thus winning Arab support for their campaign to become part of the political process. Before deciding to boycott the ceremony at the City of David, they authorized a pilgrimage to Faysal al-Husayni. There was no reason for the United States to support EU moves designed to deprive Washington of its exclusive status in the political process. Amb. Indyk should have explained to his superiors in Washington that one should not make too much of the criticism certain Israelis leveled against the U.S. veto on the Jerusalem issue. One should not take a serious view of bored people, like reserves Brigadier General Arye Biro, who sling mud at their country in order to grab headlines. There are those who provide Cairo with claims that can undermine the peace with Israel, and there are those who feed Washington the ridiculous argument that the United States should bow to Palestinian dictates on Jerusalem for the sake of peace.

In order to make it undeniably clear to the Palestinians that there has been no erosion in the U.S. attitude toward Israel, the Israeli Government must stop demonstrating indifference toward the bills its friends in Congress submitted about the transfer of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem.

Commentary Probes Israel-U.S. Relations

TA1009130595 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (HAYOM supplement) in Hebrew 10 Sep 95 p 3

[Commentary by Avino'am Bar-Yosef: "A Limited Friendship"]

[FBIS Translated Text] If there was something more disturbing and disappointing about the decision not to send the U.S. ambassador to the opening of the Jerusalem 3,000 festivities than the ambassador's absence, it was surely the administration's reaction, according to which Martin Indyk had a prior commitment to attend a Labor Day barbecue.

This is tantamount to putting a mirror in front of our faces and saying: "Guys, what do you expect us to do? Look what a national upheaval you are going through, and here you go behaving as though you were holding your last great party."

President Bill Clinton is a true friend. This stood out during his election campaign against Bush, whose attitude toward the Jewish community, Israel, and especially former Prime Minister Shamir was cool to hostile. Indyk's appointment reflected the change in the U.S. attitude toward Israel. Indyk is the father of a warm Jewish family and has received a Jewish education, and the love of Israel was ingrained in him since childhood by his grandfather. Moreover, since his early boyhood — when he first visited Jerusalem and fell in love with it at first sight — he has devoted most of his efforts to strengthening relations between the Jewish diaspora and Israel and to emphasizing the joint interests between Washington and Jerusalem.

Indyk had a considerable impact on formulating the positive U.S. policy toward Israel. He had a considerable influence in replacing the generation of "Arabists" — who have traditionally conducted Middle East affairs in Washington — with an unbiased team including many Jews who are not appalled by the concept of "Zionism."

The clouds that hovered over bilateral relations during Shamir's and Bush's later days have meanwhile been completely removed. The personal hostility between the two has been replaced by the visible mutual rapport between Clinton and Rabin.

Ostensibly, Israel should now be able to reap the fruits of these warm relationships. It should seemingly be able to attain almost any strategic objective it sets for itself: agreeing with the U.S. Administration on joint red lines; determining reasonable permanent borders against the backdrop of the peace agreements being worked out with the Arab world; and agreeing on the transfer of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem and obtaining U.S. recognition of it as the united capital of Israel.

The results, however, are disappointing. It is true that, with U.S. help, Israel has managed to wriggle out of some critical mistakes that have been made since the establishment of this government. It emerged safe and sound from the mass deportation of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists. The United States cast its veto in the United Nations on the Jerusalem land confiscation issue. It has turned a blind eye to Israeli human rights violations which have continued and perhaps even increased after the political turnabout. It has also helped Egypt climb down from the high tree it had climbed up in the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty affair.

It is true that Israel continues to receive military and civilian aid. The loan guarantees funds originally earmarked for the absorption of immigration — which has meanwhile almost come to a standstill — continue to arrive. On central strategic issues, however, almost nothing has been achieved. Even the humanitarian request to release Jonathan Pollard has been refused, even though spies convicted of much worse offenses have been released earlier.

The Israeli-American honeymoon and the Jewish political influence in America, which has reached an hitherto unknown level, are being wasted on vain efforts to provide 'Arafat with legitimacy, on increasing aid for Jordan, and on preserving Mubarak.

A senior Congressional aide told me last week that when several U.S. congressmen complained to Minister Yosi Beilin about the fact that the PLO is not fulfilling its obligations according to the Oslo accords, he answered: "Why are you complaining about this when we too are not fulfilling all our commitments. Did we give them the 'safe passage' we had promised to give them?" The aide went on to relate that the congressmen were struck dumb with amazement. "Has Beilin took upon himself the job of building the case for the other side?" they queried.

Another senior adviser told a group of Jews who had demanded that she act to put an end to the United States' contacts with 'Arafat: "I agree with you that Israel is showing the distress signs of one who commits suicide. I would have behaved differently, but this is Israel's decision, and it is a sovereign state. Do you expect us to return it to sanity?"

The administration's decision to honor the Knesset ceremony with the presence of David Good, the embassy's cultural attache — a senior and worthy diplomat in his own right — indicates that the main national targets, which were within our grasp, are slipping away. When the Jerusalem festival opened last spring, Indyk did not hesitate to make good on his invitation, despite the fact that it, too, was an altogether cultural event. Now, however, he has suddenly remembered that the Jerusalem 3,000 events are less important than a barbecue party for the embassy staff.

We should not blame Indyk. The accusing finger in this case should be directed by us at Israel itself. The U.S. Administration's decision to downgrade its presence on the occasion was based on the assessment that an Arab reaction to the ambassador's attendance would be more painful than the Israeli reaction in the event of his nonattendance. Indeed, past experience shows that this assessment is not unfounded.

Editorial Backs Pollard Citizenship Decision

TA1209135995 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (HAYOM supplement) in Hebrew 12 Sep 95 p 3

[Editorial: "A Wise Decision"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jonathan Pollard, who was recruited for spying missions for Israel in the United States, will continue serving his punishment there as an American citizen. Interior Minister Ehud Baraq did not accede to the request to give him Israeli citizenship as part of the struggle to bring about Pollard's release.

It is no wonder that Pollard's wife is very disappointed with Baraq's move. She genuinely believes that her husband deserves such a gesture by the state for which he operated.

But the interior minister acted wisely when he avoided giving Pollard Israeli citizenship since there is no basis for comparing Pollard with the "prisoners of Zion" incarcerated in the USSR who received Israeli citizenship as a gesture of support for their struggle. The granting of citizenship would not have helped to speed up Pollard's release from jail. At most, it would have been a public gesture and provocation to the U.S. legal authorities.

The Pollard affair continues to be a complicated and taxing one, as well as a family saga full of confrontations. We must hope that the Israeli Government is continuing its behind-the-scenes efforts to bring about the spy's release without public moves, which cause more harm than good.

Opposition Urges U.S. To Release Abu-Marzuq

*JN1309115395 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic
11 Sep 95 p 2*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jordanian opposition parties, the Islamic Movement deputies, the professional trade unions, and national personalities have sent the following cable to U.S. President Bill Clinton on the arrest of Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq:

The Jordanian parties, professional and workers trade unions, and national personalities who are signatories to this memorandum, would like to express their disapproval and denunciation of the U.S. authorities' arrest of Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the Political Bureau of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, on 25 July 1995 as soon as he arrived in the United States.

They view this U.S. measure as a continuation of the hostile policy which the United States has been pursuing since the early forties against our Arab nation in general and our Palestinian people in particular.

This policy resulted in deporting our people from their land and subjugating them to a usurping state in Palestine. The various U.S. governments have protected this usurping state and enabled it to dominate the regional states.

The U.S. Government has adopted the Zionist enemy's policy against our Arab people, protected the Zionist state at the Security Council and the United Nations, used the veto in favor of the Zionist enemy, and employed U.S. influence to prevent any resolution that would end the Zionist aggression.

Your Excellency the President: It is now clear that the U.S. Government, which calls for human rights, is adopting a multiple standard policy. This is because it turns a blind eye to the Zionist occupation's crimes represented by continuing the occupation, confiscating lands, killing citizens, launching collective arrests, and shelling southern Lebanon. It even allows U.S. Jews to fight with the Israeli army at a time when it quickly condemns any legitimate action carried out by the national and Islamic resistance against occupation and its practices on Palestinian territory. The U.S. Government also prevents the Arabs and Muslims who live on U.S. territory from merely expressing humanitarian feelings toward the Palestinian people who are living under extremely harsh circumstances or from extending some aid to charitable institutions in Palestine.

Your Excellency the President: We view the measure taken against struggler Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq as a hostile action against human rights, against the Palestinian people and their rights, and against the Arab and Islamic nation and its aspirations for a decent life based on mutual respect. Throughout 15 years spent in the United States, struggler Musa Abu-Marzuq did not commit a single legal violation. He only pursued legitimate political struggle, which all norms recognize. Norms also honor those who carry out such struggles as a legitimate national action.

On this basis, we demand you to release Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq immediately and end his suffering and that of his family. We view his continued detention or extradition to the Zionist enemy as an extremely serious matter which will heighten the indignation of Arabs and Muslims against the U.S. Government, worsen their relations with the United States, and aggravate a crisis which cannot be prevented by governments.

King Husayn Says Policy on Iraq 'Consistent'

*JN1309072195 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
13 Sep 95 pp 1, 7*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] King Husayn on Tuesday reiterated that Jordan's policy towards Iraq remains unchanged and reaffirmed that the Kingdom would do whatever it could to help alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people.

"Our duties towards the Iraqi people have guided us all these years, to do whatever was possible and is possible to alleviate their suffering," the king told a joint press conference he held with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. "For those who suggest there is a change in our policy, I'd like to point out that our policy has been consistent..."

The King reiterated that Jordan had no intention to close its borders with Iraq and pledged that the Kingdom would continue to send food and medicine and other items to the Iraqi people as permitted under the international sanctions and would also continue to receive Iraqi oil under bilateral arrangements.

"There have been some questions as to borders and a possible closure of these borders," said the King, who was answering a question. "As far as we are concerned, we will do everything we can on the humanitarian level, food, medicine and whatever else is permitted under the U.N. sanctions."

"On the other hand, we will continue to import oil (from Iraq) in accordance with the arrangement between the two countries," he said.

"That is one aspect of the situation," said the king. "Beyond that, let me say it very, very clearly, when I speak of the Iraqi people, I speak of their suffering, whether externally or internally induced."

"The Iraqi people have a right to what" they have not experienced for a long time, said the king. [quotation marks as published] He referred to the "lack of national reconciliation among the three major parties (Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds), lack of pluralism, democracy and respect for human rights."

"I could not keep a blind eye to what has been made clear to me of the degree of the suffering of the Iraqi people on both dimensions, external and internal," said the King. [sentence as published]

CNN Reportedly Seeks Interview With Saddam's Daughters

JN1209121195 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic
11 Sep 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] It is rumored that Rana and Raghad, daughters of Saddam Husayn, have agreed to give an interview to the U.S. CNN television network, provided the interview be carried live.

A Jordanian quarter intervened as soon as it learned about the subject and demanded the interview be called off. Only God knows.

Paper on Iraqi Changes, Overtures to Iran, Syria

JN1209120295 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic
13 Sep 95 p 8

[Unattributed "exclusive" report from Baghdad]

[FBIS Translated Text] The blow that does not kill protects against the fall. This was how President Saddam Husayn behaved toward the major event which shook his entire being; namely, the defection of his sons-in-law Husayn and Saddam Kamil with their spouses to Amman. The surprise had stunned the Iraqi president and forced him to revise all his calculations, because the knife came too close to his neck.

This explains his recent "revolutionary" decisions, which Baghdad views as a white revolution by the president against himself and his son. These decisions might be his only opportunity to save what can be salvaged.

The Revolution Command Council [RCC] headed by Saddam Husayn held an extraordinary meeting during which 'Abu-'Udayy [Saddam] summed up his assessment of the situation in light of the recent internal developments with the defection of minister Husayn Kamil and the possibility of Jordan responding to U.S. and Israeli pressure to close the border, or at least stop purchasing Iraqi oil, amid the continued enforcement of the U.S. international embargo on Iraq.

Having heard the presidential briefing and the members' comments on it, the RCC adopted a number of important decisions which can be summed up as follows:

First: Turning over a new leaf with Iran. The RCC decided to make an immediate move toward its erstwhile enemy and renew contacts with the Iranian side. It also instructed its official media to take up the subject by expressing Iraq's desire to forget the effects of the bloody war and build new relations based on common interests. An envoy was also secretly dispatched to Tehran to sound out Iran's reaction to the new Iraqi trend.

Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal was the secret envoy who carried the file of outstanding issues between the two countries and the Iraqi viewpoint on removing any obstacles blocking the normalization of relations between them. The file included the following:

— The problem of prisoners and missing persons as a result of the eight-year war.
— The case of the 148 Iraqi civil and military aircraft which escaped to Iran during the Gulf War.
— The problem of Iraqi refugees of Iranian origin and their return with their personal property and the Iraqi side's willingness to grant them appropriate compensations.
— Granting the Iranians limited control over the holy shrines of al-Najaf, Karbala', and al-Kazimiyah, and participation in the reconstruction and development of these shrines.
— Opening the Iraqi-Iranian border to the movement of goods and travelers.
— Tackling the problems resulting from the effects of the eight-year war.
— Curtailing the Iraqi opposition movement in return for limiting the movement of the Iranian opposition represented by Mojahedin-e Khalq as an initial step of good will by both sides pending the final resolution of this point.

The message of the Iraqi envoy also included Iraq's desire to create an Iraqi-Syrian-Iranian axis to confront the recent developments resulting from the defection of General Husayn Kamil, and expressed the Iraqi Government's wish to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, via the Iranian channel, to turn over a new leaf and restore the amity that has been missing between the two countries since 1979. The Iraqi envoy to Tehran also carried Baghdad's wish to arrange the awaited meeting between Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and

Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani during the next few weeks.

The recent Iraqi initiative to form a political alliance between Iraq and Iran to confront the common dangers facing both countries has met with reasonable acceptance in the ranks of the Iranian leadership. And, as a token of good will, Tehran has released 100 Iraqi prisoners without any conditions and distributed forms among the 20,000 Iraqi prisoners still on Iranian territory to learn about their desire to return to their country prior to arranging new lists for their release.

Second: Reducing the tension with Syria and exploiting current sensitivities between Damascus and Amman in order to turn over a new page with Syria, following Iraq's appreciation of the Syrian stand on the defection of minister Husayn Kamil. The Iraqi president is of the opinion that turning over a new leaf with Damascus will depend on the success of Baghdad's efforts on the Iranian front. Baghdad has taken the initiative through its foreign minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, who surprised observers by praising Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's stand and describing Syrian statements on the defection of Gen. Husayn Kamil as balanced and positive. Al- Sahhaf's statements are the first positive move by Baghdad in the direction of President al-Asad since 1979. They were followed by the suspension of propaganda campaigns in the Iraqi press against the Syrian leadership.

Third: Opening contact channels with the Iraqi opposition abroad. Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, Iraqi ambassador in Geneva, was charged with the mission of contacting Iraqi opposition forces and leaders in exile and conveying the Iraqi leadership's willingness to turn over a new page, approve political pluralism, and properly received Iraqi figures and allow their participation in the government.

Fourth: Carrying out internal reforms; mainly, confiscating the property of 'Udayy Saddam Husayn and limiting his role; reinstating Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi, who was dismissed from his post as prime minister three years ago and considering who will be the man of the next phase; and holding presidential elections in the presence of international observers to prove the honesty of the elections.

Fifth: Breaking the ice in Iraqi-Gulf relations by dispatching envoys to reassure the Gulf countries about Iraq's intentions to open up new prospects for mutual relations. Thus, Iraq dispatched its awqaf minister to Saudi Arabia to explore the possibility of meeting with Saudi officials. Iraq will see how he will be treated by Saudi officials. Some of the RCC decisions are new, but the others had been tried before. They collided with other people's rejection of the Iraqi overtures. Will the new Iraqi attempts to end the isolation and the embargo meet with the required response? Will the Iraqi attempts find people who are willing to accept them and deal with them on the understanding that they represent that missing credibility? This is what the coming days will reveal.

Foreign Minister on Ties With Israel, Riyadh

NC1209212295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2055 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Sep (MENA)—Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has stated that there is a delay, not a rush, to implement the Jordanian-Israeli agreements concluded under the peace treaty between the two countries.

In exclusive remarks to Cairo AL-AHRAM to be published tomorrow, Wednesday, al-Kabariti pointed out that this delay involves the border demarcation agreement, the transportation agreement, and the trade agreement. He noted that all these agreements were supposed to have been concluded before 10 August 1995. He added: We are concerned with implementing all the agreements resulting from the peace treaty with Israel. Describing things as fast or slow cannot be determined by the time frame resulting from certain ideas in people's minds but by the time frame specified in the treaty for implementing all the agreements, he added.

On Jordan's relations with Iraq and the number of Iraqis who live in Jordan, al-Kabariti pointed out that more than 30,000 Iraqis have come to Jordan in search of security, peace, and stability and that several attempts have been made to enter Jordan through the official crossing points and the borders in general. However, he added, Jordan will never permit its borders to be open haphazardly and will never at any time become a transit point for any forbidden commodities not permitted under the Security Council resolutions.

Asked about Jordanian-Saudi relations and the arrival date of the new Saudi ambassador to Amman, al-Kabariti said that 'Abdallah 'Abd- al-'Aziz al-Tuwayjiri has been nominated as ambassador to Jordan, which approved the nomination. He added that the ambassador will arrive as soon as possible and that he will find complete readiness for cooperation in Jordan. This will facilitate his mission for fruitful Jordanian-Saudi relations and help him make his position one of the key channels for consolidating bilateral ties.

King, Spain's Gonzalez Hold News Conference

JN1209180295 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 12 Sep 95

[News conference by King Husayn and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez with unidentified correspondents in Amman on 12 September — recorded; unidentified translator speaks on behalf of Gonzalez]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Husayn] Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. It is indeed a source of great pleasure for me to once again express on behalf of the government and the people of Jordan, and myself, our great joy over the visit to Jordan by the prime minister of Spain, an old and dear friend, whom I have always admired over the years, [words indistinct] He comes to visit this area, this region at a very important time in its history. He does not represent Spain only, but Europe at this historic moment. We've had opportunities to talk, as we always do, in candor, and friendship, and trust on all matters of mutual interest, bilaterally, in terms of the peace process and in terms of the region. And I would like to say once again a very hearty welcome to the prime minister and his honorable colleagues, and to express our great pride and feeling for the friendship that has grown between our two countries over the many many years that have passed—a friendship that has only grown in all fields of human endeavor, and a friendship which we cherish very, very deeply. Welcome, Prime Minister.

[Gonzalez] Ladies and gentlemen, Your Majesty, this is a tremendous honor for us to be here. I express our deep honor of being here on behalf, not only of the Spanish Government, but of the European Union. Perhaps, this is the most fruitful phase of our visit here to the Middle East. Your Majesty, I should like to thank you also for your tremendous political vision and your courage in your defense of the peace process. In addition to our bilateral relations, the European Union has mandated me, Your Majesty, to come here to see if we can explore ways of helping, politically and economically, the peace process by striking the important balance and meeting the required stability in the Mediterranean region. We have a new agreement with the European Union in prospect, and from our position as president of the Union, we hope to push this along and to finalize it as soon as possible. And in terms of the immediate future, we have the Amman conference on the horizon. We wish the conference every success. We ourselves will be represented at the highest level. And we hope it will be successful in attracting the necessary foreign capital to help development in the region. Your majesty, we are also very appreciative of the very important role played by Jordan in preparation for the Barcelona conference. We think that the conference will mark a new era in relations between the European Union and the 12 Mediterranean countries.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, Jordan is very much making a linkage between the Amman conference and the Barcelona conference which is going to follow. You have recently described Jordan's relations with Syria as normal, but many people find it very abnormal that Syria is attending the Barcelona conference on a high level but it is not attending the Amman conference as far as we understand. How do you explain this disparity? Thank you.

[Husayn] I think that the question, with all due respect, should not be addressed to me, but in any event, the participation of Syria in the Barcelona conference, if it comes through, is a step forward obviously, and we hope that it will be followed by many others because we all seek a comprehensive peace in this region and to enable the peoples of this region to put their resources together to create a better future, which is their right, and to offer the opportunity for a partnership with our friends throughout the world, particularly in Europe, to build and benefit from a better future that we hope is in the horizon.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, can I ask you, if there is a delay in the signing of the agreement between the Palestinians and Israel, do you think this will have a knock on effect on the Amman and Barcelona conferences?

[Husayn] I certainly hope and have every reason to do so that despite the difficulties that are still there that they will be resolved very, very shortly and in the interest of peace that the peace camp will triumph once again which represents a majority of people in this entire region. And I hope that as a result of that, everything will be ready for the conference in Amman.

[Unidentified announcer in the studio] Commenting on Iraqi- Jordanian ties, his majesty said:

[Husayn] So, our duties towards the Iraqi people have guided us throughout the years to do whatever was and is possible to alleviate their suffering. To those who suggest that there is a change in our policy, I would like point out the fact that we have been consistent in seeking for the Iraqi people an alleviation of their suffering. In practical terms, there have been some questions as to the borders and the possible closure of these borders. As far as we are concerned, we will continue to help in any way we can on the humanitarian level in terms of food and medicine and whatever is permitted under the UN sanctions. On the other hand, we will continue to try to import our oil in accordance with arrangements between the two countries. That is one aspect of the answer I can give you. But beyond that let me say very, very clearly that when I speak of the Iraqi people and their suffering I mean suffering regardless of whether it is externally induced or internally brought about. And I've said many, many times that what I wish for Iraq and the Iraqi people is a life that is different to what they have endured so far, a life of freedom following a national reconciliation between the three major parties that comprise Iraq, a life of respect of pluralism, of democracy, and of respect of human rights.

I personally could not turn a blind eye to what has been made clear to me of the degree of suffering of the Iraqi people, in both dimensions once again, internal and external alike.

[Announcer] Asked about Jordan's role in the Syrian-Israeli track of the peace process, his majesty said:

[Husayn] Jordan and Syria and Lebanon, and Jordan with its Palestinian brethren, and Egypt are all a part of the peace process with Israel, which was begun in Madrid. Jordan provided the umbrella at the time for our Palestinian brethren to speak for themselves regarding their rights and their future. And as far as we are concerned, we hope that we will see progress on every track to the attainment of a comprehensive peace in this region, and if ever we can help in any way to achieve that we would not hesitate.

Thank you very, very much indeed. Thank you so much, prime minister, and may I ask you, sir, to kindly convey our respects and warmest regards and wishes and love to His Majesty Juan Carlos, and from Nur and I to her majesty the queen as well, and to the people of Spain our love, our pride in our friendship, and our determination to see it grow always and ever in the times to come. Thanks so much.

Government To Limit Number of Foreign Workers

MM1309074095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Sep 95 pp 1,4

[Unattributed report: "Jordanian Labor Minister Tells AL- SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Will Limit Numbers of Arab Workers and Dispense With Foreign Workers"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — The Jordanian Labor Minister Dr. Nadir Abu-al-Sha'ar has said that measures adopted by the Jordanian Government to regulate the job market aim at regulating the influx of foreign workers into the country in order to provide job opportunities for Jordanians and reduce unemployment.

Dr. Abu-al-Sha'ar added in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that government measures include dispensing totally with incoming foreign workers, especially Asians, and limiting the use of Arab workers, especially Egyptians, who represent a significant percentage of the workforce in the Jordanian market. He explained that regulating the job market applies to all incoming workers and is not limited to any one nationality. [passage omitted]

Prince Hasan on Arab Defense Pact, Jerusalem

JN1109180195 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Sep 95 pp 1, 7

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the Regent, has said that Jordan's commitment to building peace in the Middle East after signing the peace treaty with Israel and the Kingdom's responsibility to the joint Arab defence pact did not contract [as published] each other, and, in any event, it was an issue that should be addressed in all its aspects by the Arab League itself.

"If we are to discuss collective security in the context of the Arab League, then permit us, in an Arab context, to have the opportunity of convening a meeting of the Arab League where these issues can be discussed and cross the range of issues that need to be discussed," the Regent said at a gathering Saturday night.

"Do not assume that our commitments to peace building will be affected adversely by (the) exercising (of) our moral responsibilities within a context that could be described as the Middle East at two speeds or three speeds," said the Regent, who was answering a question from among the participants in an in-depth debate on Middle East peace.

"Provided that we are committed to the same abstract concepts of the renunciation of weapons of mass destruction, of the promotion of human dignity in all its inter-related aspects....comprehensive security can be made a reality," he said.

The Regent also implicitly criticised Israel for trying to "leap into the future" and predetermine the outcome of the final status negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians beginning next year on such key issues as Jerusalem and refugees.

He said Arab scholars were working on celebrating the 5000th anniversary of Jerusalem in 1999, reflecting the actual Arab origins of the city, whose "3000th birthday" is being celebrated this year and next by Israel.

The Regent, addressing participants in an in-depth dialogue entitled "Building on Peace: Towards Regional Security and Economic Development in the Middle East,"made the point to underline the importance of a well-formulated concept of security that addresses the concerns and aspirations of all parties concerned in the Middle East.

In such a context, the Israeli celebrations that emphasise what the Israelis see as the Jewish history of Jerusalem since King David conquered it 3,000 years ago is seen as an effort also to politically undermine the Arab and Muslim history of and rights to the city, whose status is to be negotiated between Israel and the Palestinians in final status negotiations starting in May.

Without going into any details, the Crown Prince said: "I think it is crucially important in the context of current security not to continue to manage crises and deadlock the movement of one meeting to the next, the leap into the future as we have seen recently in reference to the importance of the discussions of final status.

"Next year will witness, or (this year) has already witnessed, a process leading to the celebration of the city of Jerusalem under King David," he said. "You may regard it as facetious, but Arab scholars are serious working on and fully in support of the idea of a celebration in 1999 marking 5,0000 years of Jerusalem, going back to its Arab origins," said the Regent.

"I think that besting each other in futuristic concepts is sometimes a convenient diversion from current issues," he added.

Prime Minister on Barring Entry of Palestinians

NC1209194295 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Cabinet has reaffirmed Lebanon's decision to bar Palestinians expelled from Libya from entering Lebanon. Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has stated that Lebanon's decision is against the resettlement [of Palestinians]. He noted that the Lebanese travel documents given to Palestinians do not qualify them to enjoy internal rights. He described the Libyan decision as incomprehensible.

Al-Hariri described his meetings in Damascus [with Chamber Speaker Nabih Birri] as positive meetings during which there was a consensus on all issues. He pointed out that the question of presidential elections is in the hands of the Chamber of Deputies, noting that in the future he will have the full cooperation of Speaker Birri.

Concerning the media law, al-Hariri said that members of the Higher Media Council will be appointed at the next session of the Chamber of Deputies.

Foreign Minister Comments on Palestinian Issue

NC1309070995 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Within the context of the measures adopted to prevent Palestinians from entering Lebanon, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has reiterated Lebanon's right to adopt such measures. He noted that the Lebanese Embassy in Tripoli, Libya, has been instructed to stop granting entry visas to Palestinians.

Speaking at the home of Deputy 'Abdallah al-Amin yesterday, Foreign Minister Buwayz said the south represents the core of the Lebanese problem, adding that Lebanese diplomacy's slogan is the liberation of the south. Buwayz said Lebanon had joined the peace process in accordance with UN conditions. Lebanon rejects any peace imposed on it, Buwayz added. He said Lebanon's participation in the peace negotiations is chiefly aimed at safeguarding Lebanese and Arab rights.

The foreign minister stressed that Lebanon is prepared to implement Resolution 425. He said Lebanon will never sign [a peace agreement] without Syria. Buwayz reiterated Lebanon's rejection of any Israeli conditions. He said there can be no peace without the implementation of Resolution 425. He concluded by saying that the success of the peace conference also depends on the implementation of this resolution. Minister Buwayz maintained that Lebanon will enjoy stability only when the south has been liberated.

Palestinians in Camp Protest Libyan, Lebanese Decisions

NC1309071995 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0645 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinians in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp staged a general strike today to protest Libya's decision to eject the Palestinians and Lebanon's decision banning their entry.

[In a related, 'Ayn al-Hulwah-datelined report, Paris AFP in English at 0639 GMT on 13 September adds the following: "Palestinian refugees in south Lebanon burned tyres and held a protest strike on Wednesday [13 September] against Libya's decision to expel Palestinian workers and Lebanon's refusal to take them in.

["The protest shut down 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp, Lebanon's largest and home to about 75,000 Palestinians, and the nearby al- Miyah wa Miyah, 4,000-strong, in the port of Sidon.

["Schools inside the camps run by the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), businesses and shops were shuttered.

["The strike, ordered by Palestinian opposition factions and the popular committees which run the camps, coincided with the second anniversary of the signing in Washington of the Israeli-PLO autonomy accord.

["'This agreement is the main cause of all the current hardships of the Palestinian people,' the organizers said."]

Palestinian Group Names Members Killed in South

NC1209140695 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1330 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The so-called Palestinian Battalions of Black 13 September have admitted that three of their terrorists were killed near the Tallusah position yesterday morning in a clash between Israeli troops and a terrorist cell that was trying to infiltrate into the border zone.

After remaining silent about the incident for more than 24 hours, the terrorists acknowledged the death of Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman al- 'Ali, 14, a Palestinian from the Nahr al-Barid camp; Samir Anwar Wahbah, 19, a Palestinian from the same camp; and Ibrahim Khalid al- Hamad, 14, a Lebanese from al-Minyah near Tripoli.

New Cable Links Lebanon, Cyprus, Syria

NC0809184995 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Representing President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Engineer al-Fadl Shalaq, minister of post and telecommunications, today inaugurated a maritime optical cable, Kadmos, during a ceremony at the telephone exchange building in Ra's Bayrut. Also attending the ceremony were Transport Minister 'Umar Misqawi; the representative of the Syrian telecommunications minister, Engineer Makram 'Ubayd; the Cypriot minister of communications and work, Adhamos Adhamidhis; Nasri al-Khuri, secretary general of the Higher Lebanese-Syrian Council; and Colonel Emile Sallum, representative of Army commander Emile Lahhid, along with administrative officials and representatives of local and foreign companies.

Minister Shalaq read the prime minister's statement. He asserted that the undersea optical cable system is the result of close and continuing cooperation among Lebanon, Syria, and Cyprus. He said this cable along with two other cables, Ogarit and (Baritha), constitute an important undersea triangle for communications linking Lebanon with Syria and Cyprus. It enables the three countries to contact various places via underwater or land cables.

Al-Asad, Spanish Prime Minister Hold Meeting

LD1209224495 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The expulsion of Palestinians from Libya was criticized yesterday by Felipe Gonzalez during his tour of the Middle East, a tour which continued today with visits to Jordan and Syria and continues tomorrow in Lebanon. Our special correspondent Pedro Fernandez Cespedes reports:

[Fernandez Cespedes] In Damascus, Syria's participation in the Barcelona conference [on Europe and the Mediterranean in November] was not made clear, although Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez described this country's presence in Barcelona in November as a fundamental question in order to complete the peace process in the region. Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad did not speak on this at the news conference. In contrast to the quite hardline and intransigent stance of the Syrian president, Gonzalez said that he was hopeful about a peace agreement, which he had always insisted should be an overall one:

[Begin Gonzalez recording] I am sure that an overall peace will be achieved. This is essential for there really to be a concept of peace. We hope this peace will be a just and lasting one for everyone. [end recording]

[Fernandez Cespedes] In the prime minister's opinion, this overall peace includes respect for the rights of the Palestinian people and the resolutions of the United Nations:

[Begin Gonzalez recording] It is only on the basis of respecting these rights, among them the right of Israel to its security and its existence — it is only on the basis of respect for these rights that a peace can be achieved that is a just and lasting peace and one that has the necessary overall character. [end recording]

[Fernandez Cespedes] Al-Asad accused Israel of being responsible for the breakdown of the negotiations because it had not fulfilled the agreements in principle demanded by Syria. President al-Asad did not speak about the specific points that had blocked the negotiations. He confined himself to saying that Syria wants peace and, moreover, making a subtle distinction between criminal terrorists and those that he calls combatants or fighters for their usurped lands, in clear support for the action of the Palestinian terrorist groups.

Finally, al-Asad denied Syrian responsibility for the death of our ambassador in Beirut, Pedro de Aristegui, despite the fact that a report by the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs points to the Syrian origin of the shell that fell on our ambassador's residence in 1989. The Syrian president dismissed the matter by saying that three quarters of the arms in the possession of the Palestinians and Lebanese are of Syrian origin.

Hold Joint News Conference

JN1309070295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 13 Sep 95

["Proceedings" of news conference by President Hafiz al-Asad and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez in Damascus on 12 September — recorded; italicized passages in Spanish, followed by sentence-by-sentence translation]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Asad] My dear friend and I are meeting with you this evening despite the short time. We might have been late for the scheduled time of the news conference. The reason is that the issue we discussed took more time than we expected. The exchange of views with Spanish Prime Minister Mr. Gonzalez was good and useful. I believe that Prime Minister Gonzalez also shares this assessment. Once again, I welcome Mr. Gonzalez, particularly since he is the head of the state of Spain with whom we have deep-rooted historic ties. Citizens here and in Spain are fully aware of these old relations and the achievements attained through joint interaction with Spain. We hope that we will build on this basis because it is a firm ground for building. Once again, I welcome you.

[Gonzalez]*I thank the president for these nice words and for the time you gave to us to discuss a basic and major issue, not only for this region but also for the Mediterranean basin. I personally want to thank him for giving me this opportunity to visit the city of Damascus for this first time in my life. The brother journalists know that the EU has entrusted me with making this visit. I presented to the president proposals from the EU. Also, we had the opportunity to speak about the Barcelona conference and about the future possibilities. I consider Syria's participation in the Barcelona conference to be very important because the matter concerns a basic pillar of this region.*

I do not want to repeat what was said, but I want to express my hope that the future of peace in this part of the Middle East will be firm. I am confident that we must reach a comprehensive peace, because a comprehensive peace is a fair peace. We hope that peace will be just and lasting for all. Thank you very much, your excellency the president.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency Prime Minister Gonzalez, the Arabs have always been eager to see a more active political role by Europe. What can Spain do now in its capacity as the EU chairman?

[Gonzalez] *Yesterday, I admitted that Europe is in fact a giant from the economic viewpoint. However, it has not found the means to turn this trade and economic influence into a political one. We have started to correct this situation and we, together with the EU members, share the view that Europe must have a comprehensive, united policy vis-a-vis the Mediterranean basin. These are the horizon and aspirations of the Barcelona conference. We believe that the main objective of the Barcelona conference is to achieve peace and justice for all.*

On the other hand, we must be efficient in achieving technological and commercial cooperation in an area in which hundreds of millions live. We also believe that in light of the exchange between our people, who are linked by cultural and economic ties, the role of the private sector in the field of economy is becoming more important every day. We would like to note that the trend of the European economic policy is based on this.

I would like to repeat something I said to the president. In the Spanish city of Granada, the first Arab university in Europe will open this year. This university is evidence of the kind of cooperation we want to achieve.

[Unidentified EL PAIS correspondent] *I have two questions, one for Mr. Gonzalez and one for his excellency the president. Sanctions were imposed on Syria by the EC. Apparently, Syria is still on the U.S. State Department blacklist. Moreover, Syria is accused of hosting terrorist organizations. Do you think there is anything that calls for a change in the U.S. Administration's position on Syria or its opinion about Syria in this regard?*

[Al-Asad] Of course, because such lists as mentioned by you do exist. It has been clear for a long time that there are differences in views between us and a number of people in various countries, including Europe and the United States. I have discussed this matter with many of them. I do not think logic was on their side in their attempt to interpret the meaning of terrorism. Terrorism is a crime and a terrorist is a criminal. It is obvious to the young and old and to all human beings that the difference is great between a terrorist in the sense I mentioned, and a struggler who uses all means available to him to defend his usurped homeland and freedom. The latter deserves to be supported because he is an enemy of terrorism, while the former, the criminal terrorist, deserves to be prosecuted. Hence, we are with strugglers and against terrorists. We are against terrorists whether they are in or outside our country. Those whom you meant by the question are those who were displaced from their country, those who have suffered for decades. Very often they had no shelter and searched for sustenance but could not find it. If they found it, it would at most be a very bitter one. Is there anyone among you all who does not defend his homeland from which he was expelled or will be expelled now or in the future? Those are the ones you mentioned, and the ones referred to by those who are accusing Syria. They are the ones that are being defined by the term terrorist. As I have said, our point of view is well known. We do not here proceed from the lists which might be in this or that state. We will not be intimidated or terrorized if a certain state accuses us of a crime, when it is not a crime, or when it issues a memorandum or document on this accusation—because false accusations are not aimed at combating terrorism. The one who accuses a non-terrorist of being a terrorist is himself the terrorist, and the one who seeks to terrorize others. We wish them success.

[Correspondent] *During Spain's previous presidency of the European Union, the Spanish ambassador to Lebanon was killed in his home by the shards of a bomb. At least this was confirmed by the Spanish Foreign Ministry on 21 April 1989. Your Excellency, I would like to know whether you have discussed this issue with President Hafiz al-Asad in your first meeting.*

[Gonzalez] *No. I did not raise this issue because it was dealt with earlier by the foreign minister. I did not find it necessary to raise it again.*

[Al-Asad] (?I would like to talk about the second part of the question) about us, Europe, and the embargo against Syria. Europe has lifted the embargo. Things are no longer as they were before. I think the European officials must have obtained information that this embargo should be lifted; thus, it was lifted. As for the issue of the Spanish ambassador in Beirut, if a Spanish ambassador or national was killed in Beirut, thousands of Syrians and tens of thousands of Lebanese were killed. They are all dear to us. However, civil wars have their laws. Unless you mean that Syria is responsible for [the death of] the ambassador.

[Correspondent] *I do not know whether Syria is responsible. The fact is that the missile or bomb that hit the house of the ambassador was launched by the Syrian artillery, because this type of bomb was possessed only by Syrian troops.*

[Al-Asad] Three quarters of Lebanon's weapons are from Syria and three quarters of the Palestinian weapons are from Syria. Arab countries are open to each other. No military specialist confirms this view. Syria is a country that has never resorted to killing an ambassador or any diplomat.

[Unidentified correspondent] Your Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, back to the peace process. You mentioned in Cairo that the peace process is dormant. There have been recent reports about a U.S. move and a visit by U.S. Secretary of State Christopher to the region. Would Syria respond favorably to the resumption of peace talks if such a thing was proposed?

[Al-Asad] We started the peace process according to objective bases, principles, and resolutions passed by the United Nations — resolutions which we and the international community recognized. We want peace on the basis of these resolutions. We exerted efforts to make peace. It is the other party that cripples peace. We have not withdrawn from the peace process. We are still for the peace process but on the basis of clarity and the principles we rely on. If this was realized, then we would support it. If not, there will be no peace. The issue is not contingent on partial things, like saying yes we accept or reject a certain proposal. We do not have any information that Christopher will come to the region. He might come, but we do not have information. In any case, as I mentioned more than once in the past, the U.S. party is undertaking efforts. I think this party wishes peace will be realized in the region.

[Correspondent]*I have two questions: one for the Spanish prime minister and the other for President al-Asad. Spain is currently passing through a serious political situation in terms of a change in the alliances on which the government was based [words indistinct] following the recent developments. What do you say about your elections plans in the future, and whether to hold the elections on time or delay them? Is there a question of confidence in the government?*

[Gonzalez]*I thank you for raising simple issues, because I have not tackled simple issues for a long time. Everything seemed to be enormous [as heard], and all I heard pleases me, but I will not get involved in puzzles of internal issues. If you wish, I can assure you that I am determined to leave the dates as they are.*

[Correspondent] *I would like to ask President Hafiz al-Asad: Following the defection of Husayn Kamil, do you think there is an intention or attempt by the United States and Jordan to destabilize Iraq so that Iraq will join the peace process with Israel?*

[Al-Asad] No one told us about this. Probably there are some people who wish to destabilize Iraq and change its regime, but we do not know whether they are serious about this or this talk is mere rumors. Anyhow, as I recently said, our view is that the only side that has the right to do whatever it wants in Iraq are the Iraqi people. Internal issues in any country should always be the concern of the people of that country.

[Correspondent] Prime Minister Gonzalez, final question. Spain has historical relations with the Arabs, and you established diplomatic relations with Israel recently. What is the role of Spain, under your leadership, in assisting the Arabs in their struggle to restore the occupied territories and the usurped rights?

[Gonzalez] *We have always defended and we continue to defend the same principles. Establishing relations with Israel has not brought about any change in our positions. Our positions on various issues are known through our statements regarding self-determination for the Palestinian people and the implementation of the UN resolutions on the occupied territories. I have always had the conviction that on the basis of these principles and Israel's right to exist, a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace can be realized. Therefore, our position has been stable over the years. As you know, this position has been made clear even within the European Union. The unified policy on this subject by the European Union was based on the Venice conference, which in turn was also based on the Madrid conference [words indistinct]. As I said, we are currently contributing to the formulation of a joint European policy on the Mediterranean basin. We hope that this policy will include all parties, and that it will be just.*

[Al-Asad] If the Spanish correspondents have questions, we will answer them because priority always goes to guests, especially since they are accompanying Mr. Gonzalez.

[Correspondent] *Thank you, Mr. President, for this kind gesture. We would also like to say that Syrian hospitality is nothing new to us. President al-Asad, please allow me to insist on the question of dialogue with Israel. What in reality are the obstacles impeding the continuation of this dialogue? Are they of a technical or political nature? If they were technical, why wasn't this declared? If they were political, why weren't they clarified? I would like to hear an answer to this question, and if you allow me I have another question: This morning in Amman, the Spanish prime minister and His Majesty King Husayn spoke about a cooperation agreement. Discussions are now under way, and an agreement may be signed soon between the EU and the Kingdom of Jordan. What are the obstacles, if there are any, that prevent Syria from taking similar steps? It is an agreement on participation by Jordan and it is different from the first agreement between the two parties...*

[Al-Asad, interrupting] This is being proposed to Syria.

[Correspondent] Are there obstacles preventing Syria from taking a step or concluding a similar agreement? Do you believe the obstacles are of a technical or political nature?

[Al-Asad] Such matters are being discussed between Syria and the EU. They are being discussed in a positive direction, and are being studied by the two sides. As for the peace process, it is difficult to detail the points of disagreement. We are discussing the peace process as a whole. There are several clauses on the peace process. There are also certain principles on which we have agreed and by which we abide. However, the others or the other party does not abide by the agreement we both reached. Therefore, the peace process is really in a state of stalemate at present. We want to implement the UN resolutions, on whose basis the peace process and the U.S. peace initiative were launched. We want to see equality in every arrangement made when the details of the peace process are discussed between the two parties. The other party does not agree with us on this matter which we, as I have said, have already organized in the form of ideas and principles.

Consequently, it is natural for us to abide by what we have agreed. At a certain point in time, we will, of course, say what you mentioned, that is, why things are not said. The time will certainly come when we will say everything. Of course, there is a reason for this. There is a U.S. mediator, and perhaps it is his right to be given a chance to have freedom of movement between the parties. We are not concerned with placing more obstacles along the path of the peace process. The obstacles are being placed by others, and there are enough of these to freeze the process. Thank you all.

Commentary Views Visit of Spanish President

JN1209195195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1133 GMT 12 Sep 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Felipe Gonzalez, Spanish prime minister and current EU chairman, will hold talks in Damascus today on means of advancing the Middle East peace process and of promoting the Euro-Syrian cooperation, as well as cooperation in the Mediterranean basin.

Before leaving for the region, Gonzalez said that he is entrusted by the EU with the task of discussing the European contribution to the peace process and with learning about the stands of the countries he will visit toward the Barcelona conference which is proposed for cooperation in the Mediterranean basin.

The truth is that the European role in the peace process is not only required, but has become necessary due to developments in this process and the Israeli obstacles facing it. Syria has on every occasion, through its President Hafiz al-Asad, stressed the importance of an effective European role which is up to the level of the historic relations between the two banks of the Mediterranean, and of the size of the Euro-Arab interests, which is certainly huge.

Since the inception of the U.S. initiative, Syria has sought Europe's participation in the Madrid conference and in the overall peace process. However, Israel has foiled this. Israel has thus far been rejecting any effective European role. It wants the European activity to be confined to extending economic aid to it on the pretext that it is going ahead with the peace process. We would like to say here, given that the European officials are aware of this, that Israel has prevented aid from reaching the Palestinian people, even the self-rule authority. Israel has confiscated much of the equipment allocated for the Palestinian police and hospitals. Although Europe is the closest to the region, and is the side most affected by its issues, Israel rejects any European political role. At the same time, it does not hesitate to blackmail Europe economically. Thus, we arrive at this conflicting equation; namely, that Europe extends the most important aid to the region, but its political role is almost nonexistent, and it is excluded from the peace process. The relevant question here is: Why does Israel reject the European role? The answer is very simple; namely, Europe has for a long time been committed to a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on the UN Security Council resolutions. During its leaders' meetings, Europe has pointed out that peace hinges on Israel's full withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, and on recognizing the Palestinian rights, including the right to self-determination. Europe has always called for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425 on Lebanon, which calls for the Israeli forces' unconditional withdrawal from occupied southern Lebanon. Since Israel does not want to achieve a just and comprehensive peace, to implement the UN Security Council resolutions, and to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories; and because it seeks to conclude separate and phased deals and to exclude the resolutions of the international legitimacy, benefiting from the influential Zionist lobby's support in the United States, it has exerted every possible effort to exclude Europe and to cancel its role. The peace process would not have abated or retreated had Europe played an effective role.

The UN Security Council resolutions, on which the peace process was based, are still ink on paper, for Israel did not withdraw from any of the occupied Arab territories. It has thus far been bargaining with the Palestinians on the form of its future occupation of their territories. It would be sufficient here to quote Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' statements following the signing of the recent Taba agreement, in which he said: "We have controlled 80 percent of the West bank territories, 80 percent of water resources, and 90 percent of the components of sovereignty. We have also excluded Jerusalem from the negotiations." Can such a farce lead to peace?

The Europeans know full well that what has been achieved for the Palestinians will not lead to peace, that talks on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks have stopped due to Israel's intransigence and maneuvering, and that eventually, peace hinges on effective and efficient international pressure on Israel. The United States has thus far been unable to exert such pressure. Based on this, the European role has become a necessity, and Europe has a word which it should say. It can say this word if it insists on it and rises to the level of its responsibilities. Peace in Europe is eventually based on a stable and lasting peace in the Middle East. No one can ignore the close ties between the two banks of the Mediterranean.

People's Assembly Speaker Meets Visiting Cubans

JN1209155795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah today received Cuban parliamentary delegation, led by (Reynolds Inis Inis), the governor of Santiago.

The delegation comprises (Omar Ramadan Didi) and (Alfredo Darwish Gotrias), chairman of the Cuban-Arab Federation. Shakir Is'ayyid; chairman of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee at the People's Assembly, and Hasan Subay'i, member of the committee; and (Arnesto Gomeza Pascal), Cuban ambassador in Damascus.

Qaddurah stressed the importance of promoting firm relations between Syria and Cuba in all fields, particularly the parliamentary ties in the interest of the two friendly countries.

The People's Assembly speaker stressed the firmness of the principled Syrian stand under the leadership of President Hafiz al- Asad to achieve a just and comprehensive peace, and to safeguard Arab dignity and rights so as not to relinquish one iota of the homeland's soil in accordance with the UN resolutions and the international legitimacy.

Members of the guest Cuban delegation praised the Syrian-Cuban relations which are based on mutual respect. They valued Syria's firm militant stands under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region and to support the just Arab causes.

Members of the delegation expressed their great pride in their new homeland through promotion of ties with their motherland, Syria. They stressed the importance of promoting these ties and supporting Syria's struggle and just issues.

The Cuban delegation arrived in Damascus last night on a six-day visit to Syria, during which it will hold parliamentary talks and meetings with senior officials. The talks will deal with means of promoting relations between the two friendly countries.

India

U.S. View of Pakistan's Nuclear Program Addressed

BK0809143295 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 8 Sep 95

[Commentary by Samuel Ved: "Proposal to Amend Pressler Law Withdrawn"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There is no doubt that the withdrawal of Senator Hank Brown's amendment to the United States Defense Authorization Bill three days ago will deal a serious blow to Pakistan, which had worked hard to get the Pressler law relaxed in its favor. The amendment in question, if carried out, would have given Pakistan some reprieve in the matter of American supply of arms to that country. The amendment had sought to partially amend the Pressler law under which American aid to Pakistan was suspended in October 1990 because of its clandestine pursuit for nuclear weapons. Mr. Brown's amendment was certainly the outcome of the deep appreciation of Pakistan's role as the United States' most trusted ally in the past. Many American policymakers may hope that in future too, this country's services could be used for America's global objectives.

Extremist Islamic fundamentalism is one serious challenge to the Western world today. Ms. Benazir Bhutto has given enough indication that she would be willing to help the West in this matter. That means that Pakistan under her leadership is at one on the question of Islamic fundamentalism with the West. Many may consider Pakistan a useful ally, yet Mr. Brown had to withdraw his amendment because of the lack of support among his fellow Senators. They had the other side of the story to tell. First of all, any relaxation in the Pressler law will militate against Washington's own commitment to the NPT [nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty], especially in the presence of evidence collected by intelligence agencies to show that Pakistan has been quietly working on the production of nuclear weapons.

There are also reports that this country has made changes in the U.S.-supplied F-16 planes to deliver nuclear weapons. Responsible leader like former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had publicly announced that his country has nuclear weapons. When Ms. Bhutto was out of power, she herself gave reasons for doubting her country's nuclear intention when she said as the prime minister, she was kept out of the nuclear program. She made it clear that the prime minister in Pakistan is not in control of the nuclear program.

Americans, who oppose any relaxation in the Pressler law, are moved by a number of considerations. First of all, they feel cheated that during 1985 and 1990, Pakistan received $3.3 billion military and economic aid from the USA on the promise that it was not pursuing a nuclear weapon program while, in fact, it was. On the basis of this promise, President George Bush was certifying before every installment of aid that Pakistan was not engaged in the production of nuclear weapons. Pakistan was fully exploiting Washington's war of proxy against the former Soviet Union and Afghanistan. Here, the theory that Pakistan is most trusted ally of the United States proved ridiculous.

Further, not many Americans are willing to believe that Pakistan under the leadership of Ms. Benazir Bhutto is willing to help the West in combating Islamic fundamentalism. They remind that all the promises she has made during and before her visit to the United States about doing away laws, like blasphemy law, she did not keep. Americans like Larry Pressler had said that she had even failed to check a university in Peshawar which gave training in worldwide terrorism to Muslim fundamentalists. He would also like the Americans to take democracy in Pakistan with a pinch of salt. He is on record as having said that he shuddered, quote, at the thought of a nuclear capable government in South Asia that is incapable of controlling its own military command or restoring order at home, unquote. Then there are Americans who feel uneasy about Pakistan's relations with China, especially after the alleged sale of M-11 missiles to Pakistan. On the other hand, Pakistan is reported to have transferred one F-16 plane to China, breaking its contractual obligation. America will have to remember that as the sole superpower now, it has to play a more responsible role in world affairs, than perhaps before.

Former Official Examines Relations With China

BK0709133995 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 3 Sep 95 p 7

[Article by A.P. Venkateswaran, former foreign secretary and ambassador to the PRC: "India's China Problem"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Tao Te Ching is China's most well-known book of wisdom. This compilation of the sayings of Lao Tzu contains such pearls like: "The journey of a thousand miles starts with a simple step." One of the postulates advanced in the book is that "all behaviours contain their opposites". Accordingly, to understand the "polarities, paradoxes and puzzles", inherent in most situations, Lao Tzu enjoins upon his followers "to learn to see things backward, inside out and upside down."

By applying this methodology to assess development in India-China relations over the past, policy makers in New Delhi could, perhaps, gain a better insight regarding the direction in which the two countries are moving towards resolving the differences between them. The just concluded eighth round of talks of the Joint Working Group held in New Delhi can serve as a useful starting point in this exercise.

Immediately after the conclusion of the meeting, India's Foreign Secretary Salman Haider had briefed the press and hailed the agreement reached on a mutual pull back of troops in the Sumdorong Chu Valley in the Wangdong area on the border of Arunachal Pradesh as a "historic step". The further hope was expressed that this would be followed by other confidence-building measures, thereby ensuring peace along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Without belittling this development in any way, it would be relevant to point out that, at the very next round of Senior Officials-level talks, following the intrusion in 1986 of Chinese forces into Wangdong which had earlier served as an observation post of the Intelligence Bureau (IB), the Chinese had indicated that they may be prepared to consider a mutual withdrawal. That had not been acceptable to New Delhi which held the view that Wangdong, being South of the highest watershed ridge of the Eastern Himalayas, was clearly on the Indian side of the McMohan line border therefore, it was argued that the question of any withdrawal of Indian forces from Indian territory did not arise. In retrospect if our view then had been different the eye-ball to eye-ball confrontation in Wangdong over the last ten years could have been avoided.

Many of the gains that have been claimed in our bilateral relations with China also are, alas, in the same category. For example, the Agreement signed during Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao's visit to Beijing in 1993 on maintaining peace and tranquillity on the Line of Actual Control. Precisely ten years earlier this formulation had been mutually agreed at the Senior officials level talks and minuted accordingly. But the problem was that the Chinese side would not define what their perception was of the Line of Actual Control in the Western, Middle and Eastern sectors. Even today, this is a major sticking point. No progress has been made at all in this regard since 1981 when the first India-China bilateral talks were initiated after the restoration of Ambassadorial level representation on both sides in 1976 following the 1962 conflict. So, while mutual withdrawal of troops in the Wangdong area is a welcome development, it is still a minuscule step, when one considers the problem as a whole.

It is a sad fact that there has been no concerted effort made in this country to pool the considerable amount of knowledge and expertise about China that is available here but has remained untapped so far. Maybe this arises from our casual approach to history in contrast to the meticulous manner in which the Chinese assemble their facts and maintain detailed records. To give an instance, the family of Confucius living in Qufu through succeeding generations have kept detailed accounts of events in their life- time, ranging from wars and famines to the price of commodities and sociocultural developments during the period. This historic tradition is reflected in the continuity that characterises the Chinese bureaucracy in its dealings in specialised areas of work, whether in domestic or foreign affairs.

The fragmentation which is manifest in New Delhi's handling of major issues of national concern stands in sharp contrast. It may be useful to recall that the first time the Indian Government became aware of intrusion by Chinese in Aksai Chin, in the Western Sector of the Indian border was through a sketch-map published in a Chinese journal. Even if one takes a charitable view of this on the basis that we were young as a nation, what came thereafter was much worse. The formal protest handed over to the Chinese was so mild that it was guaranteed to generate contempt, while the further statement that no applications for visas had been received in respect of the Chinese workers building the road through Indian territory connecting Sinkiang with Tibet, had laid us open to ridicule. Is it any wonder then that against this background, whatever progress has been claimed in regard to the ongoing talks between the two countries rebounds in China's favour rather than India's.

In the first phase of the senior officials level talks which commenced in 1981 they were overly constrained on account of the boundary question to which movement in all other spheres such as economic and commercial cooperation, cultural, educational, scientific and technology interaction were tied. Subsequently, this straight jacket was loosened and a Trade Agreement concluded in 1984 between the two countries which provided for lists of items which could be exported/imported from each other, indicating annual offtakes. This greatly helped to restore growth in bilateral trade, which was earlier on a downward trend.

The Joint Working Group which was established in 1988 during the visit of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was only a change in nomenclature comprising of the same officials on both sides. However, the setting up of a separate sub-group on the border issue contributed to de-linking that issue from other areas of cooperation. However, irrespective, of the semantics, there are limits beyond which the two countries cannot move forward together in their own larger interests and the interests of the region and the world as a whole. Much will now depend on the policies of the post-Deng leadership in China when it takes over the reins in the not-too distant future.

It is true enough that China enjoys a special status there as a Permanent Member of the UN Security council vested with the (?veto), besides being one of the five formal nuclear weapon powers, neither of which attributes are with India. Nonetheless, there seems to be no reason at all for us to buckle under and to concede an advantage without ensuring a quid pro quo for ourselves.

There are again specific sensitive issues that act as irritants in the relationship, such as China's military link with Pakistan under which the latter has obtained M-11 missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads, besides the cooperation extended earlier by China for developing Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme. Similarly, the presence of the Dalai Lama in India is enough to cause severe allergy to the Chinese leadership. No amount of protestations that they are not directed against the other's interest can carry enough conviction to overcome existing suspicions.

Take China's own policy towards the outside world. It is a well balanced strategic long-term national goal, buttressed by a set of tactical short-term initiatives. There is no wavering whatsoever. in regard to this main objective, while the tactical measures could be varied according to needs. The classic example of this is the plank or 'One China' which Beijing has maintained uncompromisingly over the years, and in defence of which the leadership is ready to pursue a confrontationist course with Washington, if it becomes necessary to do so.

On lesser planks like human right issues, China has been willing to be flexible as the recent release of Harry Wu, the Chinese born American activist, will show. Every time that the Chinese make a concession, they ensure that there is a corresponding concession, from the other side, based on the principle of "give and take". This is a principle they have been also urging upon us in regard to the India-China boundary question, and had been the basis of the earlier "package proposal" made by Premier Zhou Enlai and later on by Deng Xiaoping.

Staying power, together with a clear understanding of the bottom line of a possible settlement are both necessary for India to resolve satisfactorily the boundary issue with China. Until then there is no realistic basis on which the two sides can move forward. With the imminent change in the top Chinese leadership following Deng Xiaoping's departure from the scene, the Chinese are in no position to clinch the issue at preset. Nor are we. On its part the Indian leadership has still to decide upon the extent to which it is prepared to compromise on its earlier stand.

It is understandable, in these circumstances, if very little progress is possible just now. But it would be counter productive and even risky to project whatever has been happening as in major break-through in the bilateral relationship. India and China have been cooperating in international forums since their views on various global issues are identical or very close. However, that does not mean there are no significant differences in our perspectives.

When the film Gandhi was released in early 1980's a Chinese- subtitled copy was screened by the Indian Embassy in Beijing, to invited audiences and to students groups in the university. This led to a request from the central committee of the Chinese communist party for the film to be loaned for a private screening to their leadership. The senior Chinese party officials who conveyed this thanks when returning the film was asked how it had been received. He replied enigmatically that it was splendid and moving account of Gandhi's life. But no one had been able to understand what his non-violence was all about!

Article Views 'Strategic Partnership' With Russia

BK1209110095 Delhi THE PIONEER in English
11 Sep 95 p 6

[Article by Nirmala Joshi: "India's Ties With Russia"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The collapse of communism and the break up of the Soviet Union had far-reaching consequences for the developing countries including India. Many of the developing countries had over the years, built up deep and abiding ties with the erstwhile Soviet Union. It was the logic of the Cold War on the part of the Soviet Union and the difficulties and ambitions of its regional allies in the developing countries, that promoted and facilitated the growth of these countries. In the new world order that emerged Russia made it amply clear that in its de-ideologised foreign policy there was no place for special relationship with any country. In the process the close and friendly ties built with India came under a heavy strain. In the new reality the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation was considered as redundant. Despite the advocacy of equidistance in Russia's relations with the South Asian countries, however we find that, a little after two years, Russia was seeking "strategic partnership" with India.

The question naturally arises why this turn in Russia's foreign policy? Primarily, the change can be ascribed to the return of Russia to the geo-political realities on its southern periphery that has compelled it to rethink some of its goals in the region. Even in the past it was the compatibility of their strategic interests which provided a major impetus to Indo-Soviet relations. In the present changed context Russia and India have been able to identify the area of shared strategic goals. This has certainly had a salutory effect on Indo-Russian relations. One such area where the interests of the two countries have coincided is the newly emerged states of Central Asia.

The location of Central Asia at the crossroads of major power centres and its geographical proximity to Russia clearly highlights the significance of the Central Asia Region (CAR) for Russia. The earlier well guarded borders of the Soviet Union disappeared with the break up of the country. Russia has new borders, which are yet to be demarcated and codified into treaties. This has naturally heightened the Russian sense of insecurity. Russian vulnerability is acutely felt on its southern periphery, in the CAR, because of the on-going Tajik-Afghan conflict and the consequent destabilisation of the region. Secondly there is a perceived fear in Russia of the spread of Islamic fundamentalism and other divisive forces in Central Asia. The revival of extremist forces in the region could have a spill over effect on Russia.

On the other hand, the proximity of Central Asia to India especially to the troubled state of Jammu and Kashmir highlights the significance of CAR for India. From the Indian perspective the ongoing Tajik-Afghan conflict should be resolved at the earliest and in a peaceful manner. It is in India s interest to see that peace and stability returns to the area. Indian fears are that arms have been flowing from the war-torn areas into Kashmir and that is one of the reasons which keeps the insurgency alive there. India also shares the Russian fear of the spread of extremist forces including Islamic fundamentalism into Central Asia.

If such a development would encourage the militants to step up their divisive activities in Kashmir and elsewhere. Thirdly, Pakistan, China, Iran and Turkey are interested in forging close ties with these independent states of Central Asia. Pakistan has maintained that close and friendly ties with Central Asia countries would provide it with the strategic depth. Regional rivalry in India's neighbourhood would complicate its geo-political interests.

Hence it is the compatibility of the geo-political interests in the region which has brought Russia and India closer together. The initial uncertainty in Indo-Russian relations has given way to a predictable steady course. It was President Yeltsin's visit to India in January 1993 that set the pace for favourable Indo- Russian relations. The two countries signed the Indo-Russian Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation. Meanwhile India is co-operating with Russia in ensuring a faster economic development of Central Asia. Both the countries agree that a faster pace of economic development is the best way to contain the threat of Islamic fundamentalism. Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's visit to Moscow in June 1994 gave a further fillip to the relationship. The high point of this visit was the Moscow Declaration on Protection of the Interests of Pluralistic States. The Declaration highlighted the similarity of approaches in dealing with the threats posed to territorial integrity and sovereignty of each country. Importantly, Russia has reaffirmed its previous stand on the Kashmir issue. The Russian position is that Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union and it has upheld the validity of the Shimla Agreement.

Although there are major differences between India and Russia on nuclear non-proliferation, they have not been allowed to cast their shadow on the growing friendship. The growing defence co-operation between India and Russia has added further substance to the relationship during the Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's visit to India in December 1994. A long-term programme of military and technical co-operation up to the year 2000 was signed. Joint ventures in the defence field are planned to be set up in India, which would solve India's need for spares and other military equipment. Importantly, the first cryogenic engine would be delivered to India in the last quarter of 1996. Subsequently, Russia will be delivering six engines at an interval of six months. But it has refused the Indian request to transfer the technology.

In the economic sphere India's interaction with Russia is minimal except for trade which is showing signs of picking up. However, with the political relations on a steady course, it can be expected that economic relationship may not lag behind.

Lives of Kashmir Hostages Reportedly in 'Danger'

BK1209133095 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Informed sources from Srinagar say the adviser to the occupied Kashmir governor, General Satlani, has told the ambassadors of the countries of the kidnapped tourists that the lives of all the hostages were in danger because the Al-Faran has decided to kill them.

Political observers in Srinagar say this conspiracy was part of the Indian strategy to kill all those mojahedin whose release has been demanded by the Al-Faran on the pretext that they were trying to escape from jail. Informed sources say after carrying out this part of the conspiracy, the hostages will be killed through the so-called Al-Faran. The objective behind the disclosure to the ambassador is that in the event of killing of the tourists, India would have an excuse for asserting that it had warned to the ambassadors.

'Unprovoked' Shooting by Pakistan Troops Reported

BK1309005995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the Kashmir valley, 23 persons, including six militants and eight security persons, have been killed in militancy related incidents in the last 24 hours. One militant surrendered and 34 were arrested by the security forces. In Uri sector, Pakistani troops resorted to unprovoked firing resulting in death of a civilian.

TV Relays Swearing-In of New Ministers of State

BK1309072895

[FBIS Editorial Report] Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English/Hindi at 0558 GMT on 13 September carries live coverage of the ceremony to mark the swearing-in of the new ministers of state by President Shankar Dayal Sharma at the Ashoka Hall of the President House in New Delhi.

The live relay begins with shots of Ashoka Hall showing the ministers and others seated in rows. Prominent among them are: Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, Vice President K.R. Narayanan, Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, Home Minister S.B. Chavan, and Civil Aviation Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad. At 0602 GMT, the president arrives at the hall and stands in silence while the national anthem plays. At 0603 GMT, the new ministers are sworn in one-by-one by President Sharma. They are:

I. Ministers of State With Independent Charge:

1. Mr. M. Rajashekhara Murti
2. Mr. R.K. Dhavan

II. Ministers of State:

1. Dr. Devi Prasad Pal
2. Dr. Kripasindhu Bhoi
3. Professor (Majenung Kamsen)
4. Mr. Mohammad Ayub Khan
5. Mr. S.S. Aluwalia
6. Mr. Aslam Sher Khan
7. Mr. Suresh Kalmadi
8. Mr. Syed Sidde Razi
9. Mr. Vinod Sharma
10. Mr. Vilas Mutemwar
11. Miss Vimala Verma
12. Mr. Pavan Singh Ghatewal
13. Miss Shelja

Some ministers take the oath in English and some in Hindi. The swearing-in comes to an end with the playing of the national anthem. After the swearing-in ceremony, the new ministers pose for photographs with President Shankar Dayal Sharma and Prime Minister Narasimha Rao. The live relay ends at 0629 GMT.

Prime Minister, Spokesman View Cabinet Reshuffle

BK1309095395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The union Council of Ministers has been expanded with the induction of 13 new ministers. Two deputy ministers have been elevated. Of the new ministers, Mr. Rajshekar Murthy and Mr. R.K. Dhawan will hold independent charge as ministers of state. The 11 other ministers of state are: Mr. Devi Prasad Pal, Dr. Kripasindhu Bhoi, Professor (Majenung Kamsen), Mr. Suresh Kalmadi, Mr. Aslam Sher Khan, Mr. S.S. Aluwalia, Mr. Mohammad Ayub Khan, Syed Sidde Razi, Mr. Vinod Sharma, Mr. Vilas Mutemwar, and Miss Vimla Verma. The deputy ministers, Mr. Pavan Singh Ghatewal and Miss Selja, have been elevated to the rank of minister of state.

The president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, administered the oath of office and secrecy to them at a ceremony in Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] this morning.

Later, talking to newsmen, the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, said there will be only marginal readjustments in the Council of Ministers. He said the bulk of changes he intended to make is over. Asked whether there will be any more resignations of ministers, the prime minister said already a cabinet minister and five ministers of state have resigned.

An official spokesman later said the expansion is part of the move by the prime minister to make the government and the administration more balanced and result-oriented. He said certain rearrangements of ministries and departments are likely to be made to intensify monitoring of various programs, including anti-poverty and employment-oriented schemes. He said persons known for their drive and academic accomplishments have been brought in to enable the administration to benefit from their experience.

Leftists' Chance in National Elections Seen Slim

95AS0464B Calcutta SAPTAHIK BARTAMAN in Bengali 15 Jul 95 p 19

[Article by Atanu Bhattacharya: "In the Clash Between Congress and BJP, How Successful Will a Third Front be?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As the time of the general election comes closer, the word Third Front is being heard more and more. A Third Front has to be made against Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] in the next election. This Third Front will be a third alternative political power. In the political circles of the capital, discussions about the Third Front has become the fashion. What is this Third Front? It should be said at the very outset that in reality the condition of the Third Front is extremely scattered. There are many reasons for that. One of the major reasons of this pathetic condition of the Third Front is the difference of political ideology of the different parties supposed to be included in this front. Due to the difference in political ideology, this Front does not have a minimum political agenda. The other reason is the existence of too many leaders. Everybody wants to be a leader of this Front. None has come up yet as an acceptable leader of the Front. Besides, there are many kinds of different equations of caste and class politics. There is difference of opinion about what parties should be included in the Front and what party will take the leading role. In reality this Front has a name and it is known as the Left Front-National Front. This Front has four major parties — Janata Dal, Telegu Desham Party Communist Party of India-Marxist [CPM] and Communist Party of India [CPI]. Janata Party and Telegu Desham make up the National Front while CPM and CPI make up the Left Front. Let us take a look first at the National Front. Besides Janata Dal and Telegu Desham, DMK is also in this front. Janata party has base in three states — Bihar, Karnataka and Orissa. All these three states are so different in language, culture, political tradition and problems that there is barely any common ground among them. Naturally, the structures of the Janata Dal in these three states are also completely different. In caste based politics, Bihar stands first in the list and Lallu Prasad Yadav is the unchallengeable leader of Bihar Janata party. Caste is not at all a factor in the politics of Orissa and therefore the Janata party units of Bihar and Orissa have an enormous difference. The senior politician Biju Patnayak is the leader of Orissa Janata Dal and his tradition and style of politics is completely different from Yadav's. Once patronized by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Biju Patnayak considers the other Janata party leaders as pygmies. Recently, Srikanta Jena, the young Janata leader of Orissa is coming up to challenge the leadership of Biju Patnayak, but Jena is not in anyway a politician in the line of Yadav. In Karnataka, the Janata party has mainly three leaders — Chief Minister Devgoura, Ramkrishna Hegre and Janata party President S.R.Bommai. These leaders are not happy with the party leaders of Bihar like Lallu Prasad Yadav, Rambilas Pashwan and Sharad Yadav. Biju Patnayak is also unhappy with those leaders of Bihar. This is the condition of the major party of the National Front or the so-called Third Front. There is no unity there at all. The other party of the national front is Telegu Desham which is strictly a regional party of the state of Andhra Pradesh. Telegu Desham has neither any national political agenda nor any definite principle nor any program. In fact, Telegu Desham has no particular agenda but to oppose Congress in Andhra Pradesh. As a regional party it is run by the wish of its [recently deposed] leader N.T. Rama Rao. Telegu Desham and Janata party have no uniformity either in political ideology or in any political program. The condition of DMK, the other [until recently] partner of the National Front, is same. DMK is Tamil Nadu based regional party and it has no ideological, political or program-based uniformity with Janata party or Telegu Desham excepting opposing Congress. DMK's only agenda is to establish dominance of Dravidians. If any conflict of begins between Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu on the issue of dividing river water, a severe problem will begin between Telegu Desham and DMK. The issue of the unity of National Front or Third Front will go with the wind. On the other hand, the parties of the Left Front have no political or ideological agreement with the Janata Dal, Telegu Desham and DMK. They have no common political agenda. The relation between CPM and DMK in Tamil Nadu is very bad and on that issue bitterness is growing between CPM and CPI. On many other issues these two communist parties differ with each other. Now how these parties can form the Third Front having no common ground in political ideology and political program. This is a great question to the students of political science. The problems of too many leaders are added to these. Who will become the Prime Minister if the Third Front comes to power? There are many claimants inside the Janata Dal. There is [former Janata Dal leader] V.P. Singh. If he does not agree, many are saying the name of Ramkrishna Hegde. There is question whether Hegde will be accepted by Lallu Prasa Yadav, Rambilas Pahwan and Sharad Yadav. N.T.Rama Rao of Telegu Desham and Biju Patnayak of Janata party may throw their hats in the ring. Attempts are being made to include Mulayam Singh and [Tamil Nadu Chief Minister] Jaylalita in this front. Both of them are highly ambitious politicians. V.P. Singh wants Kansi Ram and Mayawati to be included in the front.

Everybody knows that how much ambitious Kansi Ram is. In the circumstance, no agreeable leader is found in the proposed Third Front. To avoid such a situation, many people proposed the name of Jyoti Bosu as an acceptable leader. But everybody knows the objection of Ramkrishna Hegre and N.T.Rama Rao regarding Jyoti Basu. So, what will be the basis of the Third Front? Should the basis be only to oppose BJP and Congress? If a front is formed on the basis of a negative approach, how would it become a political force? Nobody knows the answer yet.

Iran

Daily Assails UK 'Machinations' in Persian Gulf

NC1209211195 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 30 Aug 95 p 3

[Editorial: "It Would Be Preferable If the British Were To Think About Their Own Domestic Issues"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

"Britain believes that Iran is a danger for the region and for the Persian Gulf countries." This remark was made by David Gore-Booth, the ambassador of the British Isles in Saudi Arabia during an interview with AL-HAYAH newspaper. He stressed: "We support the UAE's stance on the referral of the Abu Musa island issue to the International Court of Justice at the Hague."

This is not the first time the mischiefmongering British are interfering in the issues of the Persian Gulf region and are fomenting tension in their own interest. The fact is that Britain and British officials elsewhere on the political scene do not have any regard for the Arabs and their stance so their remarks, beliefs, and support cannot change anything.

There was a time when London was the political center of Great Britain's empire but today the troublemaking British are not able to resolve their own domestic problems and rectify their own situation. As regards the region's countries, especially the shaykhdoms in the Persian Gulf, one point will clarify everything. The region's countries have been following U.S. policy for two decades as a result of which they have decimated themselves in two devastating wars. Even today they have not been able to deliver themselves from the fallout and effects of the two wars.

Under such circumstances, the devious British are seeking to deceive the Arabs of the region once again in order to embroil them in a new crisis.

Everyone is aware that the British are enemies of the region's nations and, in particular, their hearts harbor immense hatred for the Islamic Revolution and the Iranian nation. We all know that the wounded British always speak of Iran and Islam with malice. Thus, the litany-chanting by the British ambassador against the Islamic Republic of Iran cannot be considered a novel phenomenon and does not arouse any astonishment.

It would be far better for the insidious British to refrain from such machinations and to attend to their own economy, which is stagnant. It should also be driven home to London's government that it should completely abandon its usurpist policy in Ireland and should accord official recognition to this ancient land. It should delegate sovereignty and the right to decide their own destiny to the great Irish people.

It is a palpable reality that the dark age of British colonialism has come to an end and the vile British should withdraw to their own geographical boundaries in the British Isles. They should end all their interference, usurpation, and fomenting sedition in other countries and should attend to their own proliferating internal problems.

A friendly piece of advice to all the littoral shaykhdoms in the southern Persian Gulf: Before even contemplating emulating others, they should learn a lesson from the bitter past. Of course, the British are no longer a force to reckon with on the international scene today and their greatest distinction is to follow the United States and its policies.

This is because for the past few decades, the British have been in a defensive position and have nothing to offer. In international politics, they can hardly be considered a fifth wheel. However, the shaykhs are pandering to the words of a country that is not even a leader of the European countries and are giving importance to their utterances!

Uganda Asks For Mediation in Sudan Relations

LD1209181395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime minister of Uganda [Kintu Musoke], at a meeting in Kampala with the accredited ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Uganda, asked Iran to mediate efforts to bring peace and stability to the region, particularly efforts to establish relations between Uganda and Sudan.

Iran's ambassador declared Tehran's preparedness to mediate efforts to bring peace to the region.

Tehran Said To Expand European Ties for Trade

*LD1309065695 Tehran IRNA in English
0610 GMT 13 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 13, IRNA — A Foreign Ministry official here Tuesday [12 Sepember] stressed that Iran and Europe, as two trade partners, enjoy large potentials for bilateral cooperation.

Speaking to the Persian-language daily IRAN, Deputy Foreign Minister for Communication Morteza Sarmadi voiced Iran's readiness for further strengthening ties with European countries.

Europe makes efforts to have a share in the future world order, he said, adding that therefore it attaches great importance to the significant and strategic role played by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He noted that certain countries are attempting to generalize some insignificant issues as problems between Iran and Europe while those issues are not so important to mar the relations.

Commenting on the issue of the apostate Salman Rushdie, Sarmadi stressed that Rushdie has insulted the Islamic values and that the late Imam Khomeyni's verdict about him is inalterable.

However, he stressed that the Islamic republic government is not determined to dispatch commandoes to kill him.

Iran is willing to see a world where peace, tranquility and understanding is prevailed, the paper quoted Sarmadi as saying.

Bank Governor Announces Trade Balance Surplus

*LD1209173095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1630 GMT 12 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Central Bank governor today addressed the bank's 35th annual general meeting, and presented a report on the country's economic and trade performance for 1373 [year ending 21 March 1995].

He referred to the positive economic growth rate and the increase in the country's GNP in 1373. He said: During the last year, with the conclusion of major projects in the production sector, as well as investment for the development of various other projects, industrial production — particularly in the areas of steel, aluminum, petrochemicals, and cement — enjoyed a satisfactory rate of growth.

Mr. Nurbakhsh added: Some of the major factors responsible for the growth in the agriculture sector during recent years were the deregulating of prices of the majority of commodities, the guaranteed purchase of agricultural crops, and finally, the implementation of extensive projects designed to improve agricultural productivity.

He continued his report by referring to the increase in the production of electricity and natural gas, the growth in the building and construction sector, the increase in non-oil exports, and the reduction of the country's imports.

He said: Last year, the total value of oil and non-oil goods' exports reached $19 billion. The value of imports, on the other hand, was reduced to $12.7 billion. For the first time ever, therefore, Iran's trade balance showed a surplus. This enabled us to fulfil part of the country's international financial obligations.

Rafsanjani Addresses Gathering of Prayer Leaders

*LD1209122795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0930 GMT 12 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The 11th nationwide gathering of Friday prayer leaders continued its work today, with a speech by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the Imam Khomeyni complex in Tehran. You heard a brief summary of the president's remarks at the gathering earlier in the bulletin. Let me draw your attention now to a more detailed report from our correspondent.

[Correspondent] In his speech, the president assessed the current position and situation of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the contemporary world. He stressed: Today's Iran is the best place and our faithful, religious, and selfless people are the best agents for carrying out the great divine mission of the sovereignty of religion in the current age.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: We must use this unique situation, which is unprecedented in the history of Islam and in which the appropriate material and spiritual conditions for strengthening Islam and the revolution exist, to carry out this great mission.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the economic indicators, the amazing growth of industry, the increase in the gross domestic product, the reduction and severance of foreign exchange dependencies, the domestic fulfillment of society's requirements, technical and scientific capabilities for undertaking important infrastructural projects, and the capacity to export technology to the Third World as pride-inspiring and clear indications of development. He added: Despite all these facts, all the individuals in society, especially the clergymen and the country's Friday prayer leaders, must remain vigilant so that we do not suffer from weakness and internal trepidation in the combat with people who cannot comply with Islam and who have risen in battle against this sacred and model system.

The president spoke of constructive criticism as being necessary for the development and perfection of affairs and, stressing the need to avoid any kind of excess in describing realities, he said: We must not allow the enemy to exploit the words and utterances of sympathetic but ill-informed people or to magnify weaknesses and overlook strengths in order to sow despair in society and disrupt our struggles and jihad.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: In circumstances in which the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran claims to be fighting against aggression, cruelty, prejudice, and bullying — which is the most prevalent characteristic of world powers — weakening our culture and our ideals is truly among the greatest sins. The president said: The country's Friday prayer leaders must strive to safeguard the great achievements and values of this sacred revolution by airing edifying debates and expressing the realities of Islamic Iran at the current moment in time.

Further on Rafsanjani Address

LD1209123295 Tehran IRNA in English
1146 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 12, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Tuesday [12 September] that due to extensive activities of the recent years, the country's micro economic indexes are highly promising.

In a speech at the second day of the seminar of the Friday prayer leaders, the president stressed that a good proportion of essential goods are produced domestically. The net income from export of oil and non-oil commodities is annually about dlrs. 20 billion, half of which is adequate to cover foreign debts and to administer the current affairs of the Islamic Republic, he stated. He added that the surplus of foreign exchange revenues is channelled to strengthen the economic foundation and to development projects.

Despite hue and cry made by foreign and domestic enemies, the country's foreign exchange reserves are satisfactory, he stated. The Islamic Republic has no budget deficit, President Rafsanjani said adding, over 40 percent of the government's budget is also spent on development projects.

Referring to enemies smear campaign against Iran, he said that Friday prayer leaders can play a key role in neutralizing the propaganda conspiracy.

Nation Called 'Most Secure Country in the World'

LD1309070995 Tehran IRNA in English
0655 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 13, IRNA — Information Minister 'Ali Fallahian here Tuesday [12 September] said that 80 percent of bandit gangs in the country have been smashed in the past year.

Addressing a nationwide gathering of Friday prayers leaders, the minister assessed as positive the achievements of the forces of the Interior and Information Ministries and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in destroying narcotic gangs.

However, he stressed, maintenance of security inside the country was the greatest task accomplished by the said forces last year.

Fallahian further stated that Information and Interior Ministries have been succesful in fighting against smuggling of goods and foreign currencies into the country. At present, he added, illegal transaction of foreign currencies inside the country is at zero.

Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati was another speaker who described Iran as the most secure country in the world whereas its neighboring countries were entangled with internal problems.

Nateq-Nuri Affirms 'Unity' of Clergy 'Invincible'

NC0909201095 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
29 Aug 95 pp 1, 2

[From the News Desk]

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaker of the Islamic Majles, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri addressed the memorial services on the anniversary of the martyrdom of Raja'i and Bahonar. He said: The bond and unity among the clerics is invincible.

In these ceremonies his eminence Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani, political and religious personalities of the country, family members of the martyrs Raja'i and Bahonar and people from other sections of society were also present. Nateq-Nuri paid tributes to the memory of the martyrs of 8 Shahrivar [30 August] and vehemently denied rumors regarding a split in the Tehran Militant Clergy Association, saying: All our lives we will preserve the solidarity of the clergy.

He added: This rumor is a calculated plot by the internal and external enemies of the Islamic Revolution, who are trying to give the impression that there are differences among the clergy.

Commenting on the fact that ever since the victory of the Islamic Revolution its enemies, who are also the foes of Islam, have sought to drive a wedge among the clergy, the speaker of the Islamic Majles said: When His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader, was president the foreign media spread rumors that there was a rift between him and Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who was then the speaker of the Majles. However these two great people went to his eminence the imam and said: As long as we are alive we will not be separated. Thus they gladdened the heart of our late imam. This is how it was and this is how it is now as well.

He continued: Those within the country who spread rumors of a split in the Tehran Militant Clergy Association cannot analyze the clergy and they view it like the foreign enemies regard the principle of our Islamic Revolution.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nuri recalled: The elders of the Tehran Militant Clergy Association are very dedicated. Even if there were some differences of opinion, it would not mean there was discord. He stated: The clerics have a single objective: the preservation of the principles and values of the Revolution, foremost of which is the Velayat-e Faqih [rule by the supreme jurisconsult]. Today we are using the same slogans we used yesterday and we have the same political presence we had in the past.

Continuing he said: God willing, the Tehran Militant Clergy Association will participate in the next elections with an appropriate and powerful representation. The dear people of Islamic Iran who revere the clergy should be assured that there is no split in the clergy.

Nateq-Nuri said: On occasion I do make remarks which some newspapers put in their headlines in order to give the impression that there is a fissure in the Tehran Militant Clergy Association. What is their objective in doing so?

Elsewhere in his remarks, he vociferously attacked the murmurings of those who state that religion cannot administer human society. He said: Some believe that the role of religion is merely to issue a series of ethical instructions and that it has nothing to do with the world of man! They argue that religion is separate from politics and that government has no place in religious matters!

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nuri stressed: Those who consider religion a mere body of moral and ethical guidelines believe that the society should be administered by so-called scientific management and that religion cannot do so! They imply that the government established by the great Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him and his scion) was not part of his religious mission. This is their thesis [preceding word in English] on the separation of religion and politics.

He added: Islam encompasses everything from very minor individual issues to the greatest and most complicated political, social, and economic issues and problems. How is it possible for it not to have anything to do with the world of people?!

He said: Is it possible that the great Prophet (peace be upon him and his scion), the immaculate imams, and the Vali-ye Faqih [supreme jurisconsult], who is the embodiment of the qualities which make him the vice regent of the infallible imam during his occultation, are not suitable to manage society?! Should we obey irreligious people and delegate the governing of society to them?!

Elaborating, the speaker of the Islamic Majles said: The bases of our Islamic Revolution is the Velayat-e Faqih; and the focus of the U.S. hostility is certainly the Velayat-e Faqih and the Vali-ye Faqih more than anything else.

He asserted: The uncompromising stance of the great leader of the Islamic Revolution has motivated the enemies of the revolution to try to undermine the Velayat-e Faqih. Unfortunately some mischief-making controversies consistent with the wishes of the enemies of Islam sometimes arise. For example it was once stated that the government should be based on wisdom not on "ruling" and the "ruled," and that the ruler is a "deputy" not a "vali" [jurisconsult or custodian] and therefore liable to removal! Unfortunately these people are even casting aspersions on the guardianship of the prophets!

Emphasizing that the clergy merely takes responsibility in order to do its duty, Nateq-Nuri said: When the members of the Tehran Militant Clergy Association chanted slogans against the shah and distributed leaflets inviting the people to join in demonstrations against his idolatrous regime, they did not hope to survive such actions much less aspire to rule today.

The speaker of the Islamic Majles said: On the eve of the Fifth Majles elections, some say that the clergy should not take part and should not accept any responsibility for insuring their correctness. They distort facts and attribute falsehoods to the great leader, saying that he has said that the clergy should not hold office!

He added: The day that the clergy entered the struggle, there was no hint of their ever being ministers or deputies. No one even expected to emerge alive and merely viewed it as an obligation or mission. Recalling those days, Nateq-Nuri stated: The exalted martyrs of the clergy such as Motahhari, Beheshti, Bahonar, Mahallati, Shahabadi etc., sensed the danger but continued to be active at the scene of struggle. And they assumed responsibilities after the victory of the Islamic Revolution. They were martyred for performing their duties.

If the honorable clergymen such as Beheshti, Ayatollah Khamene'i, and His Excellency Hashemi-Rafsanjani had not accepted responsibility in this heroic manner, the liberals [preceding word in English] would have diverted the revolution from its real path.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nuri lauded the lofty nature of His Eminence Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani and his record in the struggle. He said: His Eminence Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani is one of the prominent personalities of the Islamic Revolution who in the black era of the idolatrous regime did his duty by raising his voice; and he endured torture and imprisonment.

He continued: Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani is doing his duty with the same revolutionary spirit. He went to the pulpit of the Jalili Mosque and raised his voice against the shah as an obligation. After the victory of the Islamic Revolution when he accepted various responsibilities, it was out of the same sense of duty. Nateq-Nuri said: Ayatollah Anvari suffered 13 years of imprisonment, hardships, and torture in the idolatrous prisons. Brothers and sisters: If we say that it is possible that dangers are threatening the revolution and that the lights are flashing to warn us, this does not mean that we will remain passive. Personalities such as Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani and other elders and prominent figures in the clergy think of nothing but service, the performance of their duty, and their divine responsibility.

It is worth mentioning that the homage ceremonies to the memory of the 30 August martyrs were arranged for by the Tehran Militant Clergy Association and the great families of these martyrs at the university of Imam Sadiq (peace be upon him).

Information Minister Comments on Dissident Tehrani

NC1209132695 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 2 Sep 95 pp 1, 2

[IRNA Report From the Kerman News Desk]

[FBIS Translated Text] The information minister announced that the dossier of Sheykh 'Ali Tehrani [Tehrani is Khamene'i's brother-in-law] has been completed and handed over to the tribunal.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Fallahian spoke to a correspondent in Kerman on Thursday [31 August] and added: Tehrani will certainly be impeached.

Sheykh 'Ali Tehrani, who had returned to the country a few months ago, had been speaking against the Islamic Republic of Iran during the war imposed by Iraq for many years from foreign radios.

The information minister then referred to the approaching Islamic Majles elections and said: The enemy's propaganda becomes intensified and it disseminates rumors about differences among the clergy and false claims of a lack of political freedom.

Fallahian said: Differences of opinion among the clergy are not very important. What is of consequence is that the basic axes of the system should be acceptable to all. He described the security situation in the southeastern parts of the country as favorable and said: Nearly 20 major operations were carried out in the past few years, and with the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps joining in, 80 percent of the bands of drug smugglers in the region were liquidated.

He added: With the barricading of the eastern frontiers of Iran, the international caravans carrying narcotics are seeking alternate routes for transporting their consignments. With the improvement in the security situation in the southeastern parts of the country, the way has been paved for investment in that region.

Ayatollah Rowhani Accuses Rafsanjani of Violations

Rowhani Issues Letter

95LA0362A London KEYHAN in Persian 6 Jul 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Sadeq-Rowhani, who has been under house arrest at his Qom residence for the last 10 years since he protested against the working methods of the Assembly of Experts, issued an open letter in which he accused Rafsanjani, the chief of the Plan and Budget Organization and a government preacher, of criminal activity.

The Secretariat of the Nation of Iran Party in Tehran reports that this letter, dated 5 Tir [26 June], was widely distributed in Iran.

Based on this letter, addressed to Rafsanjani, a government preacher insulted sources of emulation such as Ayatollah Kho'ei and Ayatollah Na'ini on television. Ayatollah Rowhani then wrote: For some time I have been intending to accuse you of criminal activity for keeping me locked and imprisoned in my house for more than 10 years without any legal, religious, human, or moral authorization, but this latest incident was so dangerous and unexpected that I was forced to do this now.

Ayatollah Rowhani then accused "the sheykh who took this liberty, the chief of the Voice and Vision

Organization, the government, and Hashemi-Rafsanjani himself" of criminal behavior.

Rowhani's Home in Qom Attacked

95LA0362A London KEYHAN in Persian 27 Jul 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the publication of Ayatollah Seyyed Sadeq Rowhani's accusation of criminality against Hashemi-Rafsanjani, on the evening of Monday 26 Tir [17 July] agents from the regime of the Islamic Republic attacked his home in Qom. While insulting and assaulting the Ayatollah's dignity, they confiscated his papers, documents, and records and took his young son Javad with them.

Ayatollah Rowhani has been under house arrest at his home for 10 years.

Mehdi Ha'eri, an Islamist living in Germany, sent a letter to the UN informing the secretary general of this incident and asking that steps be taken to prevent the constant human rights violations and assaults on human dignity in Iran.

Nepal

New Government Sworn In; Positions Detailed

Deuba, Ministers Take Oath

LD1209170095 Kathmandu Radio Nepal in English 1415 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His majesty the king administered the oath of office and secrecy of the post of prime minister to Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba, amidst a ceremony held at the [word indistinct] Royal Palace today. His Royal Highness the crown prince also attended the ceremony. In the presence of his majesty the king, the prime minister, Sher Bahadur Deuba, administered the oath of office and secrecy to ministers Dhundi Raj Shastri, Khum Bahadur Khadka, Kamal Thapa, and Gajendra Narayan Singh. At the function, Raj Parisha standing committee chairman Harendra Bahadur Singh, administered the oath of ex-officio membership of the Raj Parisha standing committee to the prime minister and other members of the cabinet.

Radio Details Council, Portfolios

LD1209164195 Kathmandu Radio Nepal in English 1415 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His Majesty the King has, in accordance with the Constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal 1990, and on the recommendation of Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, constituted a Council of Ministers, and also allocated the portfolios. According to a communique released today by the principal press secretariat of his majesty the king, the allocation of portfolios is as follows:

Sher Bahadur Deuba [Nepali Congress, NC], prime minister, as well as minister for royal palace affairs, finance, housing and physical planning, agriculture, home, water resources, works and transport, tourism and civil aviation, foreign affairs, land reform and management, defence, forest and soil conservation, commerce, education, culture and social welfare, labor, information and communications, general administration and services;

Mr. Dhundi Raj Shastri [NC], minister for industry;
Khum Bahadur Khadka [NC], minister for local development;
Kamal Thapa [Rashtriya Prajatantra Party], minister for law, justice and parliamentary affairs;
and Gajendra Narayan Singh [Nepal Sadbhavana Party], minister for supplies.

His majesty the king has expressed the hope that the Council of Ministers will receive necessary cooperation from all in the task of working for the well-being and progress of Nepal [words indistinct].

Ousted Leader Pledges Support for New Government

BK1309064895 Hong Kong AFP in English 0618 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KATHMANDU, Sept 13 (AFP) — Ousted communist Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikari Wednesday [13 September] pledged his party's support to Nepal's new coalition government, saying he hoped it would dedicate itself to the welfare of the people.

In a statement, Adhikari, president of the Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML), pledged to cooperate with the newly constituted tripartite coalition government, made up of the Nepali Congress (NC), the rightist Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) and the pro-India Nepal Sadbhavana Party (NSP), and headed by the NC's Sher Bahadur Deuba.

The new government was sworn in Tuesday after the NCP-UML lost a vote of no-confidence tabled by Deuba on Thursday.

"Whoever comes to power, if it dedicates itself to the welfare of the people, it will gain the their support," Adhikari said in the statement, adding that while his party was in opposition its "efforts will be directed towards the people and the country."

The three coalition parties and independents won 107 votes while the communists mustered only 88. Under the Nepalese constitution, a party or parties must get at least 103 votes to form a government.

"I had no greed for the post," the former premier said. "The nine months that I was prime minister, I tried to become untarnished and tried to remain a people's prime minister."

"We can proudly say before the people that our government was truly a goverment of the people, a nationalistic government and a government that was actively working to strengthen democracy," he said.

The new cabinet has three NC MPs including Deuba, and one each from the RPP and NSP.

Pakistan

Letter Sent to UN Head on Stance Towards Kabul

BK1309050195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan has said that it is strictly adhering to the policy of neutrality and noninterference regarding the internal affairs of Afghanistan and it does not give preference to any particular rival Afghan group. This was stated by Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali in his letter to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, which was handed over to Butrus-Ghali by Ahmad Kamal, Pakistan's permanent representative to the United Nations, with an appeal that the letter be distributed as a document among the Security Council members. Strongly rejecting the allegations of the Kabul administration on Pakistan's interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, the foreign minister reiterated Pakistan's stand that the Afghan people themselves should find a solution to the problems of their nation. Pakistan has fully supported the efforts of the United Nations, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and other neutral groups for peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan. He said Pakistan is willing to extend every possible assistance to the fraternal Afghan groups for a peaceful and lasting political solution to the problem so as to eliminate tension between them.

The foreign minister appealed to Butrus-Ghali to renew efforts to implement the program that was devised by his special representative Mahmoud Mestiri, who consulted with various Afghan groups. His program was recognized by the groups as a basis for the establishment of peace and understanding in Afghanistan. He said instead of leveling baseless allegations against Pakistan, the international community should ask Kabul authorities to cooperate in these efforts.

The foreign minister also said it seems as though the allegations against Pakistan were leveled intentionally to justify a mob attack on the Pakistan Embassy in Kabul on 6 September. The Kabul authorities failed to provide proper protection to the Pakistan Embassy, though they were given prior notice that there may be such a demonstration. Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has said the Kabul government is fully responsible for the attack on the diplomatic mission, which was carried out at the behest of its supporters. He said the Kabul administration should be held fully accountable for the outcome of this serious crime. He said Pakistan has been asking the Kabul authorities to desist from blaming Pakistan for their own failures. The Afghan Government could not provide one shred of evidence to supplement its allegations against Pakistan of its support to Taleban. A few weeks ago, President Rabbani himself stated that his government was helping and supporting the Taleban. The Security Council is expected to discuss this issue today in the light of the Pakistani foreign minister's letter to the UN Secretary General.

Editorial Views 'Aerial Harassment' by Afghan Jet

BK1109113095 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 11 Sep 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Now aerial harassment"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Close on the heels of a mob attack (widely believed to be engineered), comes the news of the buzzing of a PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] aircraft by an Afghan jet. The aircraft of the national career was on its way back from Tashkent to Islamabad. While it was overflying Afghan airspace, the jet is reported to have manoeuvred itself over the civil plane and then executing a 90 degree climb. As a result, tremendous atmospheric turbulence was created which caused the PIA plan to wobble and its instrument panel stopped functioning. The pilot managed to bring the aircraft under control but it is not difficult to imagine what would have happened had he not succeeded. Irreparable damage could have been done to the passengers and the plane.

Of late, President Borhanoddin Rabbani of Afghanistan has been making anti-Pakistan noises, accusing this country of all sorts of machinations against his government. It is no secret that these allegations are absolutely baseless. The Pakistan government has stated time and again that it is averse to taking sides in the ongoing Afghan imbroglio. And indeed, why should it since it gave haven to all Mujahideen factions on its soil during the entire period of Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. President Rabbani himself was a major beneficiary of Pakistani hospitality during the period.

Considering that no pilot of a military aircraft would dare to take any unilateral action against a civilian aircraft belonging to another country, it is to presumed that what happened to the PIA plane, was done with official blessings. The PIA captain has informed his superiors that the action of the Afghan jet pilot is a clear violation of the rules of air safety protection. He has also informed the authorities that it is unsafe to fly over Afghan airspace. He is right on both counts. It is unfortunate for Pakistan that it is blamed for being the cause of internal unrest by at least two neighbours, India and Afghanistan. Whatever the Indian government does is hardly ever unexpected, but when these accusations and actions emanate from a Muslim neighbour, it is very aggravating.

As it is, the government of President Rabbani is facing considerable uncertainty about its future. One fails to see any sense in provoking a much more powerful neighbour by having its embassy attacked by hooligans and aerially harassing its civilian aircraft. Afghan obstinacy is difficult to overcome at the best of times but we would make so bold as to remind President Rabbani that events might still force him to seek asylum in Pakistan. And those events will be of his own engineering.

Editorial Addresses Kabul's 'Tilt' Towards India

BK1209122395 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 12 Sep 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Indian threat from North"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul has been signalling a radical change in its policy towards Pakistan for quite some time. President Rabbani first violated the Islamabad Accord by not fulfilling his commitment of allowing Afghan people to democratically choose its rulers and when the violation of the accord naturally resulted in renewed violence, Rabbani started to accuse Pakistan of interfering in its domestic politics. Not making any headway against the Taleban, Hekmatyar and General Dostam, Rabbani opted for the traditional India Card to pressurise Pakistan on one hand, and seek military assistance from India to prop his dwindling control over Kabul on the other. Pakistan voiced its concern over growing Indian influence in Kabul and in return was rebuffed for allegedly supporting the rival faction of Rabbani in Kabul.

What Rabbani conveniently seems to have forgotten is that Pakistan lent de facto recognition to Rabbani government. The dejure recognition could not have come without the implementation of the Islamabad Accord. Still, not wanting to complicate a hopelessly complicated situation, Pakistan maintained its neutrality and refrained from exercising its moral obligation of upholding the Islamabad Accord. That in itself was an undue favour towards Kabul and an equally unjust stance towards the offended signatories of the accord.

Ignoring Pakistan's efforts for a negotiated peace in Afghanistan, Rabbani govt went ahead, full steam, to advance its controversial policies with the help of India military and economic assistance. It didn't work. Given the geo-political scenario of Afghanistan, it was doomed from the very beginning. And since it did not work, Pakistan is the easy target, and not just on political or diplomatic front.

For the first time, since Russian departure, Afghan jets violated the airspace of Pakistan and dropped two bombs. The fact that Afghan jets intruded into Pakistan four times in 12 hours makes the incidents more than isolated ones. The bombing made sure that they were far from being friendly. A missile was also fired from Afghanistan into Pakistan. Then came attack on Pakistan embassy in Kabul, the second during Rabbani regime. A person was killed and several injured including Pakistan's ambassador to Kabul. To add insult to injury, Kabul refuses to apologise for the incident. It is surprising that such an incident was allowed to happen despite the fact that fearing the attack, the Pakistan embassy had requested protection.

Earlier, the Russian aircraft forced down by Taleban in Qandahar was found carrying Indian arms and munitions. Curiously, Indians were the closest Soviet allies when the latter invaded Afghanistan. The presence of Indian military experts and pilots has been confirmed by various sources. This build up of Indian arsenal, manned by Indian personnel is more than just a "tilt" of Kabul towards Delhi. It is fast becoming a viable threat to our security. Keeping in view the Indian record of turning regional disturbances to its advantage, Pakistan cannot afford to remain the apologetic bystander it has till now been.

India will go to any length to impose its tutelage over the lucrative Central Asian Republics and deprive Pakistan any access. Unfortunately Rabbani seems to have fallen to Indian designs and with the kind of situation evolving around Kabul, his regime is neither in the mood or in a position for a mid-course correction. Given this grim and alarming situation, Pakistan should seriously contemplate to review its policy and make it consistent with the ground realities. A slackness and hesitation at this crucial stage can have far reaching effects, hardly benign to Pakistan.

Air Chief Says French Mirage 2000-5 Best Option

BK0609131395 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 6 Sep 95 p 11

[Report on "panel interview" with Air Chief Marshal Abbas Khattak, chief of air staff, by "The News panel" at his office; date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rawalpindi — Finding France as a available source to purchase sanction-free defence equipment, Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Abbas Khattak confirmed that Pakistan would soon start formal negotiations with Paris for acquiring 32 copies of high-tech Mirage 2000-5 aircraft.

After undertaking a long exercise to explore all the available options to equip Pakistan Air Force [PAF] with a high-tech combat aeroplane, the Air Headquarters has recommended to the government to get at least 32 new Mirages so that new front-line aircraft are inducted to make the Force more potent, said Khattak.

In a detailed interview with The News panel (Farooq Mzhar, Editor, Saleem Bokhari, Editor Co-ordination, Tariq Butt, Chief Reporter and Shakil Shaikh, Defence Correspondent) at his office, the Chief of Air Staff (CAS) compared the doctrines induced by Air Forces of two South Asian nations, different projects of PAF, need to acquire new combat aircraft through shopping from the international market in view of the available options, the impact of non-delivery of paid-for equipment under Pressler sanctions, financial constraints being faced, the threat perception and counted some of the qualitative edges required to outmanoeuvre the enemy.

"Though the government has earmarked US$ 3 billion for the PAF's High-Tech Aircraft Programme, Pakistan needs to have credit facility in case of Mirage 2000-5 deal; otherwise the negotiations between Islamabad and Paris would almost be non-starter," said the CAS. Mirage 2000-5, he added, is a super duper fantastic aircraft, but nobody can take us for a ride."

Giving an enlightened view of having a qualitative edge and not the number, Abbas Khattak said France has demonstrated (except in the case of nuclear power plant) a reasonable independent stance, while a compulsion being faced by Pakistan also include dependence on western technology.

Quoting the outcome of the Gulf War, he said in case of a future war it would be the Air Force that would play a dominant role. "The more importance you give to your Air Force, the more security you ensure against Indian designs." He said even the Army, in case of war, cannot go alone unless supported by the Air Force. "Army would be effective in the imbalanced situation of 2:1 ratio, if the PAF plays an effective role."

He disclosed Pakistan has explored the options of Russian, British, Swedish and Chinese aircraft, but for a high-tech aircraft the efforts did not, materialize for one or the other reasons. "Now, we are banking on acquiring new Mirages and also picking up as many as used Mirages as possible in a bid to quickly redress the situation which has shattered PAF's visionary programme of 1989 after the non-delivery of 71 F-16 aircraft under Pressler Law."

If all, the 71 F-16s (60 out of national funds and II out of FMS-II), he claimed, would have been delivered to Pakistan, that would have tremendous effect of PAF "The non-delivery of these planes was a big blow to PAF and these 71 F-16's were equal to one- third of the total strength of the Force. It has seriously affected us and handicapped the PAF".

On the question of redressing the situation, Khattak found it "a complex business" to redress the situation, as a number of years are required to make up, provided money is lined up for new purchases in view of the threat perception.

He said nobody saw this blockage for all time to come, but the PAF ws the first to realise it and started evaluating other options. Pakistan, he said, had to shy away during it negotiations on the previous occasion to purchase Mirage 2000-5: "It was also because of costly avionic and black boxes, carrying electronic warfare equipment, which amounted to almost half of the total price of the aircraft."

Russia's Su-27 is a beautiful aircraft, but the avionics coupled with the rigid administrative set up in Moscow never allowed things take a start. "The aircraft was never offered to us. However, he said, everybody knows that Indian influence is always there to sabotage any such process," added Khattak. India, he said, was beaten up by PAF in the 1965 because of a qualitative edge.

Without giving a clear date as to when the new Mirage deal will be finalised with Paris, he said the government has been told after technical evaluation of the aircraft and the threat perception that Mirage 2000-5 is the answer.

However, he said in all such big deals the professionals have to see into the future as on majority of occasions the western producers change the technology and make the spare parts unavailable. "Under such circumstances, the buyers are forced to look for a change, as in the case of 1F-16 A/B version, which Pakistan had bought from General Dynamics/Lockheed/Lockheed-Martin."

Giving the numerical strength of Indian Air Force, Abbas Khattak found that even half the number, if

PAF achieves, would give Pakistan a good chance to outmanoeuvre India.

He said it is understood that IAF has sensed the need to decrease the number of aircraft it has, and if the IAF goes down to 800 flying birds, Pakistan must have close to 400 aircraft. We have sent teams to western countries for shopping the used Mirages III/V so that they could be upgraded and made up for the attrition which in normal circumstances is 7 to 8 annually with almost all the air forces."

Claiming Pakistan is not working in isolation on the Super-7 joint venture with strategic partner China, he said for choosing the best avionics to be fitted on it, three vendors have asked to compete for the business. "They have been asked to show worth and test their bids," he added. He termed the Super-7 project as a difficult one and said the final decision rests with the government. "Pakistan must have qualitative edge over India, if it needs to keep its defence non-vulnerable. Air superiority is a must and for that, one has to have good high-tech aircraft," maintained Khattak.

He said Su-30 is a bloody aircraft, which India is trying to acquire. However, he claimed, it all depends on the endurance, stay in the air and combat air patrolling capabilities of the aircraft.

He, however, said Pakistan has a better doctrine, better training and a very cohesive Air Force. On the other hand, IAF is too large and diversified. He quoted the example of Elephant (IAF) and Lion (PAF). What Lion needs to do is to pinch here and there and run away, but should not come under the foot of Elephant.

He said in the 1965 war, Pakistan was well-prepared. Asghar Khan had actually chalked out the strategy and preparations had been made since Runn of Kutch. PAF had launched destructive attacks on Pathankot and couple of other places which forced India to lick the dust. PAF returned with flying colours in that war and staged a remarkable success. It was all due to combined efforts and cohesive planning.

Talks To Reopen on Purchase of Russian Helicopters

BK1209111295 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 12 Sep 95 p 1,4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Sept 11—Three separate teams of Sukhoi Design Bureau, Ulan-Ude and Kazan Helicopters are arriving in Rawalpindi on Tuesday [12 September] to renegotiate the deal to supply 49 Russian MI-17 Helicopters to Pakistan army. Each company is sending three experts from their concern with one representative of official Avio Export Department.

The re-negotiations are taking place in the wake of serious notice taken by the Army Chief of the story published in The Muslim on May 8 pointing out the irregularities being committed by some officials in connivance with the military Attache in Moscow and a Pakistani wheeler-dealer operating from the UK.

According to well informed sources, the Army Chief while taking a serious notice of the story convened special meeting to personally examine the deal, it is believed that the representatives of GHQ [General Headquarters], EME [Electrical and Mechanical Engineering], Aviation Command and officials of Defence Procurement involved in the negotiations were summoned by the Army Chief to explain their position.

According to reports after a thorough discussion, it was decided that the manufacturers of MI-17 Helicopters should be recalled with their new offers.

Earlier, Pakistan Army had only negotiated with only two companies including Ulan-Ude and Sazan Helicopters. The Suk-hoi Aviation Group, which is the mother company of Ulan-Ude and which holds 60 per cent of shares in Helicopter manufacturing complex, was not invited for negotiations by MoD [Ministry of Defense]. This was despite the fact that Sukhoi had offered the same Helicopters at very competitive prices along with a comprehensive support package. However, this time around MoD has invited the Suk-hoi Aviation Group for negotiation.

The negotiations will be in continuation of the earlier offers made by these companies in Tune this year which could not be finalised mainly due to objections raised by this newspaper and partially due to some technical requirements. They have been asked by the Pakistan Army to restate their offers in the light of certain modifications to the requirement of the user service. These companies are also required to furnish manufacturer guarantees in respect of certain specialised equipments. It is understood that none of the competitors could produce such guarantees in their earlier offers due to political impediments.

As the participants have given the understanding to Pakistan Army that they would be able to supply these Helicopters exactly as per user's requirement they have been called to re-negotiate their offers. Sources in the Defence Ministry maintain that depending upon the best available offer, both technically and financially, the Defence Procurement Division would be in a better position to determine the offer. This is in order to avoid any unnecessary criticism and keep the deal "transparent" sources maintained.

According to these sources people suspected of having soft corner for a particular local agent have already been replaced on the orders of the Army Chief who wants to maintain strict transparency in every procurement carried out by the Pakistan Army. Initially, the Pakistan Army would be procuring 12 Helicopters to add another batch of 12 copters to the fleet of Pakistan Air Force later.

In their earlier offers it is believed that both Kazan and Ulan- Ude have offered to sell these choppers at a price of about 2.8 million US dollars per copy. On the other hand the Sukhoi Design Bureau in its letter addressed to GOC [General Officer Commanding] Army Aviation Command dated Oct 18, 1994 had offered to sell the same brand new choppers at a cost of 1.4 million US dollars per unit. It also offered that it will provide the first five helicopters at a special price of US dollar 850,000 per copy with the bank guarantee to assure the technical maintenance and spare parts.

Earlier in May this Year, The Muslim had reported that in utter violation of mandatory formality of floating open international tenders for competitive bidding to buy 49 Russian MI-8/MI-17 helicopters, the Pakistan Army and Ministry of Defence Production were holding direct negotiation with two selected parties represented by the same Pakistani wheeler dealer operating from UK. What was perhaps more reprehensible in the whole process was that it was for the first time that the Pakistan Army had deviated from transparent mode of procurement. Intriguingly the deal was being manipulated in such a manner that the official representatives of the two Russian helicopter manufacturers were eliminated in the process. Instead an expatriate had jumped into the fray claiming direct excess.

Official Details Arms Made at Ordnance Factories

BK1109025895 Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 5 Sep 95 pp 1, 10

[Report by Sikander Hayat]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD—Pakistan Ordnance Factories (POF) exports a variety of arms and ammunitions worth about $15 million annually and has the potential to do more should the bureaucratic hurdles be removed, said POF Chairman Maj. Gen. Mehmud Ali Durrani.

Talking to journalists, the POF Chairman said Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was apprised of these hurdles recently when she paid a visit to the POF. Importers of POF products are in the region as well as in Far East and Middle East, he added.

Asked whether exports have any negative fallout on the national requirement he said the POF has a very large capacity and only the surplus is exported. Exports also help get the POF international exposure, he said, explaining that his organization competes and wins at the international market on merit.

The POF is located at Wah, 36 km west of the Capital. It was founded soon after independence. Over the last three decades the POF have grown into a huge complex now comprising 14 factories and six subsidiaries.

The POF production ranges over 70 items including weapons, small arms ammunition, artillery, aircraft and anti-aircraft ammunition tank and anti-tank ammunition, mortar bombs, rockets, mines, grenades, pyrotechnics and demolition stores, military explosives and propellents, commercial explosive and military clothing.

The POF meets over 95 percent of the Pak Army requirements and to some extent the needs for small arms for the Pak Navy, the chairman said. The country saves 30 to 40 percent on the indigenous production of arms and ammunitions.

This organisation is helping the private sector develop defence- oriented substructurers so that over time the private sector should take over defence production at least by 50 percent, said Maj. Gen. Durrani.

He said the POF has adequate storage inventories and in case of war its potential to supply arms to the army would not be eroded. Of course, there is some dependence on external sources but it is not a major handicap, he added.

Asked to name the POF's most outstanding achievement the chairman said "despite being a public sector entity the POF is "cost- effective". At the same time its over 30,000 workforce is happily placed because "we are good paymasters and labour-management relationship is very good".

At the POF, the great emphasis is laid on quality control, the underlying consideration being that only the best should be provided to the soldier in the field. The works inspection department checks quality at every stage—from the procurement of the raw material to the finished product. The "super check" is carried out by the armed forces inspection department. Live firing tests are available equipped with the latest ballistic monitoring units and conditioning chambers in several firing ranges from 100 to 200 meter ranges to 40 km open ranges.

Gen. Durrani said no major expansion of the POF is on the cards because emphasis is laid on consolidation and modernisation. Smart weapons production has been undertaken and depleted uranium ammunition is also under production, he added.

"If so desired by the Pakistan Government the POF can produce missiles", Durrani replied to a question whether Pakistan can produce missiles. But he refused to elaborate his one-line reply. He said Pakistan has been propelled into modern weapon production by the Gulf war. Afghanistan war was a "low-tech" affair, he added.

Over a dozen high-tech products have been made through reverse engineering but he did not want to go into the specific of these products.

He said, China, Germany, United Kingdom and the United States are collaborating with the POF in the production of over 50 percent of its output.

Smart weapons and combustible cartridges are being produced with foreign collaboration.

Article Acclaims al-Khalid Tank Prototype, Testing

BK0609111195 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Sep 95 pp 1, 4

[Article by Aroosa Alam: "Al-Khalid Trial: a Major Step Towards Self-Reliance"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad Sept 5 — The handing over of the first prototype of MBT-2000 (Al-Khalid) to the Pakistan Army for extensive tests and trials before the tank could be put on pilot production line by the first quarter of 1998, has been a major leap towards self-reliance and indigenisation of defence production by the Heavy Industries Taxila (HIT)

Equipped with an alternative powerpack. Al-Khalid qualified through extensive R&D [research and development] mobility trials in the sizzling hot condition of Bahawalpur in June before it was handed over to Pakistan Army for formal trials which were currently in progress.

"We are extremely proud and happy to announce that Pakistan has achieved a major breakthrough in tank manufacturing and the country is going to have its first state of the art tank by 1998 said the Chairman Heavy Industries Board Taxila Lt [Lieutenant] General Ayaz in a briefing to a group of defence correspondents from Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

He also announced that another breakthrough has been achieved in the field of metallurgy as HMC (Heavy Mechanical Complex) is about to come out with the prototype of the turret for tanks.

Without going into specific technical details of MBT-2000 due to security consideration, the Chairman however, made it abundantly clear that the country's future tank will be equipped with the most modern fire control system, BVRs [expansion unknown], thermal sight, 1200hp diesel engine, explosive reactive armour that gives protection against kinetic energy and chemical energy attack and 125mm smooth bore tank gun.

Lt Gen Ayaz declared very proudly that Pressler has not effected HIT in any way and the Complex along with its subsidiaries has been carrying out its commitment to Pakistan Army in maintaining its fleet of tanks and APCs [armored personnel carrier] without any major problem.

He said the contract for the design, development and manufacturing of prototypes of MBT-2000 was signed with M/S Norinco of China on May,3, 1990 which stipulates that design, development and manufacture of MBT-2000 will be carried out in two phases, the prototype phase and the series production phase, He said initially the power pack of the prototype has some problems which had been removed with an alternative power pack and trials carried out at Bahawalpur were successful with no ensuring major problems encountered during the total run of 1500 km.

Detailing upon the financial structure of the Al-Khalid project the Chairman said, that through massive deletion programme the Tank will be extremely cost effective as compared to its western counterparts. He said based on the results of the extensive all weather tests and trials of the formal prototype and incorporation of further modifications in the design, the pilot production of MBT- 2000 was likely to start at HIT by first quarter of 1998. Lt General Ayaz said HIT takes great pride in the fact that the prototype of Al-Khalid had been developed and assembled solely by our engineers and there had been no Chinese participation at this level. "We have told the Army that they may test the prototype for one full year under all weather conditions in any part of the country, be that the deserts of South or the Chilling terrains of North, Al-Khalid would pass through all conditions, claimed the Chairman HIT, He, however, said the production of a completely indigenous tank and APC was not at all economically viable and no country in the world had gone for a totally indigenous tank APC. HIT, as a matter of policy, he said had developed only those components, assemblies locally which involved demand in the commercial sector also.

He said in addition the HIT could undertake manufacture of spare parts for tanks/APCs for other countries and earn a much needed foreign exchange. He said a case for the establishment of Margalla Industries Limited was under process to pave way for the desired interaction between the HIT and civil sector. This will be set up under companies ordinance and shall function as a separate commercial entity enabling HIT to explore avenues in and outside Pakistan for generating income by marketing the surplus capacity.

Praising the role of local vending industry in assisting HIT to achieve its objective to help it save foreign exchange as well reducing reliance on foreign sources for parts, the Chairman said through development of components and assemblies from local vendors, HIT had saved about Rs 455 million in foreign exchange. He said HRF tank factory saved about Rs 2000 million, APCs factory Rs 3230 million, and three tank factories Rs 692.375 million due to deletion programme.

Article Addresses MQM Call for Strike

BK0909115695 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 9 Sep 95 p 1

[Article by Salahuddin Haider]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi, Sept 8 [dateline as published]—The Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) called for strike in Karachi and Hyderabad on Sunday (Sept 10) to protest against the continuing arrests and killings of its supporters in urban Sindh.

It took this decision Friday night saying the government had refused to head to its advice for administering justice to MQM activists and Muhajirs which, it said were being victimised for no rhyme or reason.

However, the strike decision taken by the organisation's coordinationn committee and endorsed by its exiled leader Altaf Hussain from London, came much before the expiry of a 48-hour ultimatum which the MQM had served on the government.

It had asked the authorities to arrest the killers of three of its activists and also stop continued repression by rangers and the Frontier Constabulary.

In the meantime, Nawab Akbar Bugti, chief of the Balochistan based Jamhoori Watan Party (JWP), charged in a statement from Quetta that the government was sending para-military forces to crush the Bugti tribesmen in the provincial town of Sui and Dera Bugti.

Strike Reportedly Ends 'Unsuccessfully'

BK1009150395 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The province-wide, wheel-jam strike call given by the Altaf Group ended unsuccessfully in Karachi and elsewhere in the interior of Sindh. Reports say normal flow of traffic was witnessed in various areas of Karachi. Shopping centers and markets remained open. Trading was also witnessed at the wholesale vegetable and fruit mandi [market]. Brisk activities were seen in the crowded localities, where a number of people thronged to buy necessities of life. Banks and offices also remained open. In some areas, due to threats from antisocial elements, shops were shut down and traffic remained suspended. A number of shopkeepers complained that they could not open their shops due to the fact that locks were jammed by the use of adhesive chemicals.

[Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English at 1400 GMT on 10 September adds: "In Karachi, a partial strike was observed today on the call of Altaf Group, during which one head constable was killed in the jurisdiction of Khwaja Ahmad Nagri police station, while two police constables were injured in Kalakot area. A pedestrian was killed and four other people, including a child and a woman, were injured in the firing incidents and four vehicles set ablaze by the miscreants at various places."]

Minister Sends Warning to Altaf Group 'Terrorists'

BK1209033995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Interior Minister Retired Major General Nasirullah Khan Babar has reiterated that the government cannot be browbeaten and the Muhajir Qaumi Movement Altaf Group terrorists, who are playing with the lives of innocent people, will not be spared. Speaking to the Associated Press of Pakistan in Karachi yesterday, he said that the people of Karachi do not support the Altaf Group now, as they are aware of the true motives of this group. The interior minister said the government is prepared to inquire into the allegations of terrorism against Yasmin, a keen activist of the Altaf Group.

Official Says Leghari Responsible for Punjab Crisis

BK1109104095 Islamabad THE NATION in English 11 Sep 95 p 1,11

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore—Opposition Leader Nawaz Sharif has said that President Sardar Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari is himself responsible for the prevailing Punjab crisis and said Leghari should owe an explanation to the nation that why he at the behest of Benazir Bhutto allowed to open the flood gates of horse-trading and blackmailing. He observed this while addressing a Press conference at his Model Town residence on Sunday [10 September]. Ch [Chaudary] Shujaat Hussain, Ch Pervaiz Elahi, Syed Ghous Ai Shah, Sardar Zulfiqar Khosa, Mushahid Hussain and Pervaiz Rasheed were also present on the occasion.

Nawaz Sharif said that if the President does not act to prevent these violations of the Constitution, then the people of Pakistan will have reason to believe that he is not faithfully discharging his duties as the constitutional Head of State.

He said that Article 234 was actually invoked for horse-trading and the President is involved in it. He termed the imposition of Article 234 as the biggest day-light robbery. Nawaz said at the State Guest House in Lahore a mafia-like structure has been set up and the most unfortunate part is that the Prime Minister herself is part of this mafia which is crossing all limits in corruption and coercion of MPAs [Member of Provincial Assembly] to pressurise them to change their political loyalties.

He said the Press itself has reported that directly under the supervision of the Prime Minister, he husband Asif Ali Zardari, Punjab Governor, newly-appointed Chief Secretary, briefcases full of currency notes in the presence of heads of nationalised banks are being used to purchase MPAs and other members of Parliament.

He said being the President of the biggest party of the country he wants to make it clear to all concerned that this kind of political culture and Pakistan cannot co-exist. He said although Pakistan has seen lots of ups and downs never before in our history have we witnessed the kind of political terrorism practised by the PPP [Pakistan People's Party].

Nawaz Sharif said the FIA [Federal Investigation Agency], Intelligence Bureau, police, bureaucracy and political tools of the PPP want to turn a minority into a majority through bribes and pressure just as was done in NWFP [North-West Frontier Province]. He said the people of Pakistan with 'Allah's blessings will resist attempt to impose one-party fascist State. He invited all the political leaders, public opinion leaders, intelligentsia and all sections of society to work together to resist this willful demolition of the democratic process.

He said the entire country demands that the PPP desist from horse-trading and mauling of the bureaucracy. He said he is well aware of PPP designs as it wants to capture the government in Punjab by hook or by crook. "PPP has planned to erect an infrastructure at the level of the Local Bodies so that it would serve as the instrument for rigging mid-term polls. "However, the day of elections the masses will surprise this corrupt coterie, he added. Nawaz also warned his party's dissidents who change their loyalties and betray the trust that the people will reject them. Opposition Leader said they are going to mobilise the people against the political tyranny of the PPP leadership because surely what they are doing to this country is not in accordance even with the will of its workers and voters.

Bhutto Views Punjab After Assembly Suspension

BK1209071995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said Pakistan Democratic Front [PDF] has clear a majority in the [Punjab] provincial assembly and expressed the hope that the new leader of the house will win more votes than the person who was elected in October 1993.

Speaking to newsmen in Lahore last night after the PDF Parliamentary Party meeting, the prime minister said a majority of the Punjab provincial assembly members are supporting the positive policies of the PDF government, which is struggling against racism, sectarianism, and parochialism. The government is also investing heavily in the social sector to create more employment. Bhutto said in categorical terms that the PDF does not believe in horse trading. She said the tradition of democratic countries is that the leader of the house resigns after losing majority support. However, Mian Manzoor Ahmad Wattoo has refused to resign in spite of the resignations of the ministers of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] and the Pakistan Muslim League [PML]-Junejo group as well as the chief minister's advisers.

The prime minister said according to the presidential order, only the government of the former chief minister, Mian Manzoor Ahmad Wattoo has been suspended, while the Punjab assembly is intact. She said convening the provincial assembly is the prerogative of the opposition. Unfortunately, it does not have a majority to do this. She said the opposition has unjustifiably criticized the president. The president is the symbol of the federal government and he has fulfilled his constitutional obligations only. In response to a query, she vehemently denied that there are differences between the PML-Junejo group and the PPP. In reply to another question, Ms. Bhutto said no new grand alliance is being forged and all reports of this sort are based on various presumptions and rumors.

Dismissed Punjab Chief Fails To Appear for Vote

BK1209113295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mian Manzoor Ahmad Wattoo has failed to get the vote of confidence from the members of the Punjab Assembly during its special session in Lahore this afternoon summoned by the Punjab governor for this purpose. The special session of the assembly, chaired by Speaker Mr. Mohammad Hanif Ramey, remained in session only for six minutes in which former Chief Minister Mian Manzoor Ahmad Wattoo did not appear for obtaining the vote of confidence. He also did not nominate any member from the house to move a resolution in his favor for obtaining the vote of confidence.

The speaker said that the session of the provincial assembly was called to ask Mian Manzoor Ahmad Wattoo to obtain the vote of confidence under the Clause 5 of the Article 130 of the Constitution. He said as Mian Manzoor Ahmad Wattoo failed to appear before the house or to depute any member to move any resolution in his favor for the vote of confidence in the house, which shows that Mian Manzoor Ahmad Wattoo had failed to obtain confidence of the house. Then speaker prorogued the session for completing the proceeding of the agenda of the day.

Sri Lanka

Ministry Seeks 'Urgent' Security for India Mission

BK1109113995 Hong Kong AFP in English
1121 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Sept 11 (AFP)—Sri Lanka called Monday [11 September] for "urgent and effective" security for its diplomatic mission in the South India state of Tamil Nadu following a bomb attack that damaged the building there.

The Sri Lankan foreign ministry statement said it asked India to provide stepped up security for the Deputy High Commission (DHC) office which was hit by two bombs. There were no casualties but the building was damaged.

The two crude devices exploded just outside the gate of the mission and damaged a wall of the compound, the Press Trust of India news agency reported.

Sri Lanka has "brought this matter to the attention of the (Indian) government and requested that urgent and effective measures be taken to ensure the security of the DHC in Madras," the foreign ministry statement said.

Indian police said a Tamil extremist group, the Tamil Liberation Army, was suspected of carrying out the attack. It said handwritten posters from the shadowy group were found at the scene of the blasts.

Tamil Nadu, across the Palk Strait from Sri Lanka, served as a sanctuary for Tamil separatist guerrillas until New Delhi and Colombo signed an accord in 1987.

Radio Reports on Crash of Air Force Plane

BK1309092695 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0830 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Sri Lanka, at least 80 people, including several military personnel, were reported killed in an Air Force plane crash at Negombo coast near Colombo this morning. the mishap took place when the Russian-built AN-32 aircraft was on a flight from Ratmalana Air Base to Palaly military base in the northern Jaffna Peninsula. According to a military spokesman the cause of the crash is not immediately known.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 0756 GMT on 13 September in a similar report adds: "Sabotage was the most likely cause of Wednesday's [13 September] crash of a military transport aircraft over Sri Lanka's western coast, official sources said. Investigators detained two Tamil constables who loaded two crates of cigarettes aboard the aircraft without mandatory security checks, the source said. There has been no official word from the airforce. They said the fact that the bodies of the victims were blown to pieces showed that a mid-air explosion was the cause of the crash. Several police were to be questioned about negligence, the sources said."]

Further on Crash

BK1309110795 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English
1045 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] An Air Force plane crashed into sea 20 km off the coast of Wattala this morning, killing all on board. The Russian-built Antonov aircraft left Ratmalana for Palaly at 0700. At about 0720, the pilot radioed for help several times. Thereafter, according to Ratmalana airport sources, the aircraft disappeared from the radar screen.

The plane was carrying 68 soldiers, two policemen, and five airmen. The crew comprised pilots Pakiyanadan and A.P. Kadmaratana and their assistants Martin Spine and Janaka Kahendawala. Air Force sources say that the plane had been flying in stormy weather at 5,000 and 6,000 feet at the time of the crash.

The wreckage and bodies of the victims are floating off the coast. Navy boats and Air Force helicopters have been dispatched to investigate.

'Plot' To Kill President Reported; Police on Alert

BK0809131595 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English
1045 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] An all station police alert has gone out from police headquarters for the arrest of an elite LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] spy squad sent from Jaffna to Colombo by the terrorist organization's intelligence wing chief, Pottu Amman, on a reconnaissance mission ahead of an attempt to assassinate President Chandrika Kumaratunga.

The deputy inspector general of police, Colombo, H.M.G.B. Kottakadeniya, told LANKAPUVATH yesterday that a large group of LTTE spies, including a woman, had been sent to spy on the movements of the president and to evolve a plan for an attempt to assassinate her. He said the plot was bare with the arrest of two members of the squad in Colombo. Investigations made by the police following the arrests have further revealed that the details of all information collected by them were to be dispatched to the Jaffna peninsula through the woman cadre.

'Massive Racket' To Fund LTTE Said Discovered

BK0909130695 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Police have uncovered a massive racket which diverted millions of rupees to the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in foreign exchange under the guise of importing valuable goods to Sri Lanka. Colombo DIG [deputy inspector general of police] H.P. Kotakadeniya, said that the modus operandi of this scam was to use huge sums of money abroad ostensibly for importing various goods and indirectly channel a major part of the fund to the LTTE. This ring was exposed during the interrogation of a Tiger suspect detained in Colombo recently. The ring has been in operation for several years and funding the LTTE to the tune of millions of rupees. Police have already gathered details of the bank accounts of several businessmen involved in the racket. Five of them are now being questioned by the police. Money has been lodged [as heard] through agents and intermediaries in several countries. In some cases funds have been transferred solely for the purpose of funding the LTTE, police said. Several leading banks and the customs are cooperating with the police to probe the deals with the businessmen involved in the racket. Details of bank loans, fund transfers and actual imports are being studies. DIG Kotakadeniya has appointed a special team of police to investigate this case.

Radio Updates Situation With Ferry Boat Hostages

BK1109124095 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Some 36 ferry passengers freed by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] have sought refuge outside the war zone as negotiations for the release of the remaining hostages ran into a new stage. These 36 people are among the 130 passengers freed by the LTTE without conditions, but they continue to hold the eight-man crew of the Iris Moana ferry and six other passengers. The ferry was seized by the LTTE on August 29 off the Mullaittivu, while it was travelling from the nearby port of Trincomalee to a government-held islet of Jaffna. Out of the 130 freed passengers, 94 have said that they do not want to stay in the LTTE-controlled Jaffna peninsula or go back to their homes in the islet.

A spokesman for the Rehabilitation Ministry, which has chartered the Iris Moana, said that in this circumstances the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] will be asked to arrange for their evacuation and the government will provide all logistics for support. However, indirect negotiations between the LTTE and military authorities ran into new problems when two rebels, whose release was demanded by the LTTE, refused to go back to the Jaffna peninsula. Defense officials said that the LTTE has offered to free the Iris Moana, its eight-man crew, and the six other passengers, together with a senior Navy officer in their custody, in exchange for the two women fighters captured by the Navy. However, the two women, identified as S. Uma and A. Mala, refused to go to LTTE-held territory, saying that they will be killed if they went back.

Seven soldiers, including an officer, were killed in a confrontation with the LTTE terrorists in the Batticaloa District yesterday. According to military sources, four soldiers were wounded in the battle. Terrorist casualties are not yet known. LTTE terrorists also launched an attack on police personnel at (Aramohappan-Kuriappu) at Eravur yesterday. The attack was, however, repulsed. During the patrol at Kiran in Batticaloa, Lieutenant (Ruwan Abeysinghe) was wounded in a (?drummer) mine explosion. He was evacuated to the Batticaloa Hospital.

Government Forces Launch Offensive Against LTTE

BK1209124995 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Some 3,000 heavily-armed government troops backed by air cover launched an offensive against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in the north today.

Defense sources in Colombo said that the ground troops broke out of their lines at the Palaly military complex in Jaffna and moved into territory held by the LTTE. They said the offensive was launched at first light. The Army is moving against mortar gun positions of the LTTE just south of Palaly. The Operational Headquarters of the Defense Ministry said that the offensive was aimed at destroying fortifications of the LTTE, which had been used in the past week to shell the air base and the Army camp. A spokesman for the headquarters said that more details would be available in the afternoon about the progress of the operation.

He also said that around 6 AM today, terrorists attacked a security forces guard post at (Arisamalle), about 2 km south of northeastern Pulmoddai, killing four security personnel.

Forces Said To Capture 3 LTTE Areas

BK1309115795 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The security forces have succeeded in recapturing three LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]-dominated areas in Jaffna. They have taken control of Ponnalaikaduwan, Arialai, and Mallakan. With this success, the brigade continued their offensive which commenced last morning against the LTTE, killing 15 terrorists. Infantry soldiers backed up armor and aircraft smashed mortar positions of the LTTE inside their Jaffna Peninsula stronghold during a 10-hour battle. Quoting military officials, AFP report said that two soldiers were killed in the attack and 21 wounded. A military statement said that the offensive was in progress and security forces were further moving into the three locations.

More information pertaining to secrets of the LTTE are reaching the government authorities. Jaffna residents travelling to Colombo had disclosed that the LTTE was facing severe problems at present. A leader of the leading political party from the north has said that this is the first time the LTTE was facing a severe situation. One of the main reasons for this volatile situation was the recruitment of teenagers for battle by the LTTE leadership. The political leader also said that as a result of the current situation in Jaffna, the youths feel insecure and frustrated and said that they were reluctant to be conscripted by the terrorists. The Tamil politician further said that the attitude of the young men and women have caused the LTTE to apply strict measures in their recruitment and operations. The LTTE are imposing heavy punishment on those who give information to the authorities. Following their defeat at Weli Oya recently, the terrorists have arrested about 50 residents of Jaffna for supplying information to the security forces. The LTTE has also restricted the movement of the Jaffna population, the politician said.

Government Affirms Commitment to Devolution Proposals

BK0809130795 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government has reiterated its commitment to the devolution proposals which it had placed before the people, but has expressed willingness to accommodate views that surface during the current debate. Constitutional Affairs Minister Professor G.L. Peiris said that they had set out what they believe to be the correct principles. They are meant to be debated and help the emergence of a national consensus.

Professor Peiris said that the devolution proposals the president unveiled last month were (?in line) with the government's three-pronged strategy to restore peace in Sri Lanka and the signs of its success are already visible. The Tamil community in Sri Lanka and abroad have already begun to consider the proposals as providing a viable basis for the settlement of the ethnic problem. The minister said that for the first time there was a clear indication that the expatriate Tamil community was not fully behind the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. The support for the LTTE was dwindling because sections of Tamils have begun to think that a just and fair alternative has been placed before them. Professor Peiris said that the government had decided to give more time for the current debate to go on and would place the draft chapter on devolution proposals before the Parliamentary Select Committee in a few weeks. He said that during that period the government would step up its efforts to clear the misconceptions and misunderstandings that have cropped up. He gave an example to explain the extent of the misunderstanding.

Editorial Welcomes U.S. Stand on Ethnic Conflict

BK1209105595 Colombo VIRAKESARI in Tamil 4 Sep 95 p 2

[Editorial: "The U.S. Perception"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States has once again emphasized that a solution to ethnic conflict should only be found through negotiations. This view, expressed on behalf of the U.S. Government, cannot be neglected amid increased military activities in the country.

The U.S. assistant secretary of state, who is on an official visit to the country, has said: With regard to Sri Lanka, the United States pursues a policy that supports peace efforts and negotiations.

The U.S. official's statement can be construed as part of the international position that a lasting solution to the ethnic conflict should be found through peaceful negotiations. Although the international community stresses the need for peace, it does not seem to have endorsed the Sri Lankan Government's policy of "peace through war."

The U.S. assistant secretary of state, who welcomed the proposals for a political settlement and the ongoing discussions, also said: It is not our concern to decide whether or not these proposals are reasonable.

We can see that the U.S. official has tried to point out two things through these statements. First, the United States favors only the offer of proposals for a political settlement and the continuation of the peace efforts. Second, as this is an internal affair, the United States has indirectly made its position clear that it does not want to interfere in Sri Lanka's internal affairs.

As foreign countries will not interfere in Sri Lanka's internal affairs, the government should not function with the sole aim of continuing war. The situation has deteriorated to this extent only because of the government's pursuit of such measures in the past.

Sri Lanka's affairs have been positively assessed at the international level. The concept of "peace through peace" cannot be heard at all as long as Sri Lanka is caught in the clutches of narrow racist tendencies.

Contemporary global events indicate that we can move toward a right solution to the ethnic conflict only through foreign intervention. Although the views expressed by the United States stress the need for peaceful negotiations, they make us realize the fact that a mediator to bring the two warring sides closer is needed in addition to these peaceful negotiations.

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